Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-90-246
Friday
21 December 1990

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NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Democratic Front Undergoes Internal Reorganization

Hoxha Resigns as Leader

LD2012201890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1922 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Ohrid, 20 December (TANJUG)—Nexhmije Hoxha, widow of Enver Hoxha, former head of state and the leader of the Albanian Worker's Party, today resigned her post of president of the council of the Democratic Front of Albania.

Nexhmije explained that her resignation was prompted by her age. Tonight Albanian television said that Adil Carcani, who was said to be "a well-known politician and Ramiz Alia's closest aide," has been appointed the new president of the council.

The resignation followed unrest in several Albanian towns and yesterday's official acknowledgement of the first non-communist party since the communist seized power in the country after the World War II.

Nexhmije Hoxha is believed to have opposed the changes in the country and the introduction of multi-party system.

Carcani Named Successor

AU2012144590

[Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian at 1430 GMT on 20 December carries a three-minute report on a "just concluded" meeting of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania. The announcer states that "Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha asked the Council to release her from the function of chairman of the General Council for reasons of age. The General Council of the Democratic Front elected as its chairman Comrade Adil Carcani, a distinguished political personality known to all the people and one of Comrade Ramiz Alia's closest coworkers." The report also mentions other personnel changes in the membership of the General Council.

Leaders Elected, Program Outlined

AU2112104590 Tirana ATA in English 0930 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Tirana, December 21 (ATA)—The General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania convened in the hall of the Museum of National History in Tirana on December 20 before noon. It discussed the tasks the front organisations are faced with in the electoral campaign for deputies to the People's Assembly as well as on the resolute support the Front renders in the present moments for the application of the great program of democratization of the country's life undertaken by the party and Comrade Ramiz Alia.

Besides the members of the general council, the meeting was attended also by heads of the democratic front organisations.

The report was delivered by Vice Chairman of the General Council of the DFA, Mark Vuji.

Speaking of the draft program of the Democratic Front of Albania which will be submitted to the electors, the speakers made remarks and suggestions to improve it, laying the stress on the role of the front organisation as a pluralist organisation since its founding and on its main goal for the strengthening of the national unity to defend the freedom and independence of the homeland. For the final drawing out of the draft program a commission was set up which will soon present it for approval to the general council of the DFA.

In the end Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha, on behalf of the presidency of the General Council of the DFA put forward some changes in the presidency of this council. She demanded from the council her release from the function of the chairwoman of the General Council of the DFA for reasons of age.

The council elected as chairman of the General Council of the DFA Comrade Adil Carcani, a renowned political personality in all the country, [words indistinct] coworkers of Comrade Ramiz Alia.

Likewise, the General Council of the DFA, elected as vice-chairmen Comrades Selami Pulaha, professor director of the institute of history, Haxhi Aliko, rector of the higher agricultural institute and Alefs Luarasi, docent, vice-dean of the faculty of the juridical political sciences. Mark Vuji remained in the function of vice-chairman of the General Council of the DFA.

In the meeting, the floor was taken by Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha and the Chairman of the General Council of the DFA, Comrade Adil Carcani.

Hoxha Gives Resignation Speech

AU2112104690 Tirana ATA in English 0940 GMT 21 Dec 90

["From the Speech of Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 20 (ATA)—"The work with the Front has given me great pleasure. What makes me withdraw today is the age, I am nearly 70. I withdraw from the daily work, but not at all from the front of the struggle our powerful organization wages in support of the initiatives and decisions of the Party of Labour, of our state and of the whole society for the democratization of the country's life, Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha said among others.

It is a great goodness that Albania is led today by this wise, courageous and far-sighted leader, Comrade Ramiz Alia. Just as many comrades, I, too, am bound with him by a 50-year militant companionship from the youth to the present; and it is a great honour for me that together with the entire party and people continue to fight alongside with him for the democratization of the country's life, for the strengthening of legislation, of the human

rights, of the political pluralism of thought and organization, for the strengthening of the position of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania on the European and international arena [sentence as received].

The Front organization, since its founding in the Peze conference, was pluralist not only from the known platform without distinction of religion, region and idea, but also from the participation of the representatives from different groups and tendencies. The Front observed this pluralism during the whole national-liberation war and up to the present days. It realized the unification of the people both from the grass-root and from the adherence above of the organizations and persons that were sincerely for a free and democratic Albania. Today, too, the Front has its doors open for the adherence of the independent forces guided by the lofty patriotic ideals of freedom independence and national unity, of the prosperity of the people, which are common ideals of every genuine Albanian, wherever he be.

The new law on the elections and that on the creation of the parties, she said, make it possible to them to elect to the highest state organ, to the People's Assembly, their own representatives and take part with equal rights in the formulation of the laws.

These days we witnessed the destructive outbreaks of some degenerated elements as in Shkoder, Kavaje, Elbasan and elsewhere. Their vandal acts strongly disheartened and aroused the indignation of the people. Men and women, youngsters and veterans, workers and peasants, intellectuals of all fields solidarize with the message of Comrade Ramiz Alia addressed to the people.

It is a natural right for the people and especially the youth to dream and aim for a better and more cultured life, to march ahead keeping pace with the time and the whole mankind. But the greatest misfortune for a nation, and moreover for a small nation as ours, would be the division of the generations. Therefore it remains a sacred duty of the front to maintain and strengthen the unity of the generations, the people and the homeland are in need of more than ever, Nexhmije Hoxha concluded.

Carcani Gives First Speech as Chairman

AU2112110990 Tirana ATA in English 0940 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Tirana, 20 December (ATA)—I wish on your behalf, comrades of the general council, to thank Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha, one of the founders of our front organisation, for the contribution she has rendered for its leading and strengthening, for the implementation of the party line, for her support to it and her commitment to translate into life the measures adopted by the party and Comrade Ramiz Alia, for the all-round democratization of the life of the country, Comrade Adil Carcani said among others.

The role and tasks of the Front organisation have been great both during the war for the country's liberation and the establishment of the people's power, and in all the stages of building our new life, but they are specific in the present moments when we have to defend with resolution and carry ahead our achievements in all the fields: political, socio-economic ones, in the field of education, culture and science, for the defence of national freedom, independence and sovereignty, for the implementation of the great program of democratization of the country's life Comrade Ramiz Alia leads with wisdom and farsightedness.

Our organisation, as an independent political subject, is faced with great tasks, now when we are on the eve of the electoral campaign for the deputies to the People's Assembly, which will be realized under the conditions and spirit of the political pluralism, through dialogue and debate, powerfully raising against the acts of violence, as those which took place recently in some cities as Kavaje, Shkoder, Durres, and Elbasan, by groups of mischievous persons and hooligans, acts which aroused the indignation of the people, who rightfully demand the severe punishment of those who resorted to such acts of vandalism and against the law.

The tasks of the Democratic Front are numerous and comprehensive. It is our duty to propagate among the masses, during the electoral campaign, the program of the Democratic Front, as a great political action, which will contribute to the development and progress at rapid rates of the homeland, on the road of its further democratization lead by the party.

Democratic Front Holds Session

AU2012203890 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania met in the hall of the National History Museum in the capital this morning, and discussed the tasks facing the Front's organizations in the campaign for the election of deputies to the People's Assembly and the determined support the Front gives at the present time to the great program for the democratization of the country's life, undertaken by the party and Comrade Ramiz Alia.

Besides members of the General Council, chairmen of Democratic Front organizations also attended the meeting. A report was delivered by Mark Vuji, deputy chairman of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania.

Speakers, talking about the draft program of the Democratic Front which will be presented to electors, made comments and suggestions for its improvement, stressing the role of the Front organization as a pluralist organization since its formation, and its main aim to strengthen national unity and defend the homeland's freedom and independence. A commission for the final drafting of this program was created, which will submit

the final version to the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania. At the end, Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha, in the name of the Presidium of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania, presented various changes to the Council's Presidium. She asked the Council to release her from the office of chairman of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania for reasons of age. The Council elected Comrade Adil Carcani, a political personality well known to the entire country and one of Comrade Ramiz Alia's closest coworkers, as chairman of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania. The General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania also elected as deputy chairmen comrades Selami Pulaha, professor and director of the Institute of History; Haxhi Aliko, director of the Higher Agricultural Institute; and Aleks Luarasi, senior lecturer and deputy dean of the Faculty of Political and Legal Sciences. Comrade Mark Vuji remains in the office of deputy chairman of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania.

Taking the floor at the end of the meeting, Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha said: Allow me to thank all the comrades of the Presidium and all the members of the General Council for their close cooperation and support which I have received for the smooth running of the activities of the Democratic Front. Work with the Front has brought me particular satisfaction, she said. What leads me to resign today is my age, because I am approaching 70. I am surrendering the burden of day-to-day work, but I am not in any way resigning from the front of the struggle which our powerful organization wages in support of the initiatives and ideas of the Albanian Workers Party, our state, and the whole of society for the democratization of the country's life. It is a great benefit that we have such a wise, courageous, and farsighted leader at the head of our Albania today, Comrade Ramiz Alia. Like many comrades, I am tied to him by 50 years' association in militancy, from our youth to the present day, and I have the honor, together with the entire party and the people, of continuing to struggle alongside him for the democratization of the country's life, the strengthening of legality, human rights, political pluralism of thought and organization, and the strengthening of the position of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania in the European and international arena.

The Front organization, she then said, has been pluralist since its foundation at the Conference of Peze, not only in its famous platform—without distinction of region, religion, and conviction—but in its inclusion of representatives of different groups and tendencies. The Front has been true to this pluralism from the National Liberation War down to the present day. It achieved the unity of the people from below, and had the adherence from above of organizations and persons who were sincerely in favor of a free and democratic Albania. The Front's doors are still open today to those independent forces which are led by the high ideals of patriotism, freedom, national unity, and the people's prosperity, and these are the common ideals of all genuine Albanians wherever they live.

I think it would be reasonable, Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha then said, for the new Presidium, together with the General Council, to reflect on how they can invigorate the role and operation of the Democratic Front under the conditions of the existence of independent political and social organizations, parties, and associations, etc. The new electoral law and the law on the creation of parties provide them with the opportunity of sending its own representatives to the highest state organ, the People's Assembly, and of taking part with equal rights in the formulation of the laws. Through its healthy forms and methods, the Democratic Front organization can become a free tribunal of dialogue and debate for many political, social, and other problems.

In conclusion, Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha said: The campaign for the election of deputies to the People's Assembly which is being carried out on the basis of the electoral program provides an opportunity to further strengthen the unity of the people in achieving its noble aims of protecting and strengthening the homeland and the power of the people.

Comrade Adil Carcani, chairman of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania, after expressing his thanks for the honor of being elected as the organization's chairman, expressed his assurance that with the help of the Council he will dedicate all his intellectual and spiritual energies to responding to this great trust. The role and tasks of the Front organization, he then said, have been great ever since the struggle for the country's liberation and the establishment of the power of the people and during all stages of the construction of our new life. They are very special at the present time, however, when we must determinedly defend and inexorably carry forward our achievements in all political, economic, and social fields, and in education, culture, and science, for the defense of national freedom, independence, and sovereignty, and the implementation of the great program of the democratization of the country's life which Comrade Ramiz Alia is leading with wisdom and farsightedness. Major tasks, he said stand before our organization as a political subject in its own right. At present, we are faced with the campaign for the election of deputies to the People's Assembly, which will be carried out under the conditions and in the spirit of political pluralism, on the road of dialogue and debate, standing firm against acts of violence, such as those committed in recent days in such cities and Kavaje, Durres, Shkoder, Durres, and Elbasan by groups of delinquents and hooligans, acts which worried and caused indignation among the people, who rightly demand the severe punishment of those elements who committed such vandalistic and illegal acts.

The tasks of the Democratic Front are many and various. We are faced with the task, Comrade Adil Carcani later said,

of mobilizing ourselves with redoubled strength, from members of the General Council down to the forums of the base of our organization everywhere, in the towns and the countryside, to propagate among the masses throughout the electoral campaign the program of the Democratic Front [words indistinct], which will serve to further strengthen our national and people's unity and raise the patriotic spirit of our people. This spirit has been expressed and must be expressed even more today in labor and life, to fulfill the tasks which stand before all honest citizens in their determination to carry forward the homeland at a faster pace on the road of its democratization, along which the party is leading us.

157 Tried, 26 Sentenced for Taking Part in Rallies

AU2012153090 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Because of their participation in the demonstrations last week, the Albanian authorities handed down sentences to 26 people of up 20 years in prison. This was confirmed by Radio Tirana citing the Ministry for Justice. As stated, the people who were convicted committed illegal acts in Durres, Elbasan, and Shkoder.

A representative of the opposition Democratic Party, (?Genc Solo), stated that many of those who were arrested were tortured and forced to confess crimes which that did not commit.

According to official reports, 157 people were tried for taking part in the demonstrations.

Border Guards Kill Four Fleeing to Yugoslavia

AU2012153390 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Dusan Milacic report; place and date not given]

[Text] Albanian border guards opened fire on a group of their compatriots who fled to Yugoslavia across the river Bojana last night. We received this report from a Radio Titograd correspondent Dusan Milacic:

[Milacic] This morning about 0100 [0000 GMT] Albanian border guards opened fire on a group of their fellow countrymen who were fleeing across the river Bojana to Yugoslavia, that is to say Ulcinj. We have also officially learned that some people were killed and wounded. A group of 23 persons safely escaped on rafts made of tractor tires. Four dead bodies were found on one of these rafts. It is still unknown how many people have been killed and wounded but those who survived say that the dead include several boys and that their bodies were washed down the river.

At present, however, one can say with certainty that last night one could hear volleys of gunfire on the Albanian side of the border, and this occurred in the same place were two days ago a group of 28 women, children, and adult males successfully crossed the river during the night. The number of those who have successfully escaped from Albania to Yugoslavia since last summer via land and sea, or the river Bojana to Ulcinj, exceeds 200.

Last Stalin Statue Removed in Central Tirana

AU2112113490 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Ruzica Gravilovic report; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Belgrade, Dec 21 (AFP)—Nexhmije Hoxha, the widow of former Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha and a powerful opponent of the reform process, withdrew from Albanian politics late Thursday saying she was too old to continue, Tirana radio said.

In another sign of change, the last statue of Stalin in central Tirana was removed early Friday in line with opposition demands, an Albanian journalist contacted by telephone said.

Both the newly authorized Democratic Party and students, who called Stalin "the greatest enemy of democracy" at a Monday night meeting, had pressed for the statue's removal. It was hauled away only hours after Mrs. Hoxha, 70, stepped down as head of the Albanian Democratic Front (ADF), an umbrella organization run by the ruling communist party which she helped found and has headed for the last 20 years.

She said her successor in the key post was Prime Minister Adil Carcani, whom the radio described as one of President Ramiz Alia's "closest collaborators."

She has been one of the toughest adversaries of the political and economic reforms that Mr. Alia started introducing a year ago in what was Europe's last hardline Stalinist regime. [passage omitted]

Press Denies Reports of Deaths in Protests

AU2012141190 Tirana ATA in English 1120 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Unattributed report: From "The Press Review"]

[Text] Sami Milloshi writes in the newspaper "ZERI I POPULLIT": According to a story broadcast by TANJUG on December 18, recently in Albania "Dozens of manifestants have been killed and approximately a hundred have been wounded." One cannot be surprised that this agency is already known, while reading TANJUG, one should believe the contrary of what it writes. This is the credo of informations of this agency, especially when it informs on the events on Albania.

Through such concoctions, "ZERI I POPULLIT" stresses, TANJUG becomes a zealous puppet of these destructive forces that want bloodshed in Albania. But the Albanian people are manifesting maturity and responsibility, to attain democracy only through democratic ways. As far as some hooligans are concerned, be they in our cities, or corners of Europe, let TANJUG deal with them. It is not the first time that this agency

serves zealously, but meanwhile proves that its fabricated reports are but soap bubbles.

Cooperativism Brings 'Drastic Harm' to Highlands

AU2012172190 Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian
14 Dec 90 p 2

[Kamber Faruku article: "Room for Pluralist Thinking"]

[Text] It is a special honor for everybody to be able to furrow his brow when contemplating the homeland with 100 thoughts in his mind, wondering how the homeland will become as an Albanian's heart would wish it. When we can all unite our brain and brawn better, the homeland will no doubt rise higher.

The party is leading democratization to new qualitative levels in content and methods. Freedom of thought is the nervous system of this historical process. This was also underlined by Comrade Ramiz Alia when he said at the 12th party plenum: "...our socialist society cannot develop without freedom of thought."

At first, pluralism of views brings conflicts. Development comes when the flour is later sifted and alien matter is removed. Nevertheless, it is not easy for pluralist thinking to grow healthily. In theory, "it is wide and inexhaustible," but in practice it is subjected to plenty of attacks, not only from conservatives, but from the ignorant. Pluralism of thinking, however, is increasingly flowing in a genuine riverbed.

How should we understand this? A measuring of the past not only brings understanding, but is itself part of the debate, serving both present and future. I recall that it was the beginning of the 1980's when the directive to gather cows into small herds was issued in the cooperative of Qender and five other cooperatives of Diber District. A mother from the village of Selane (Qender) came to my apartment in Peshkopi. She seemed extremely upset.

"They took away my cow," she said to my wife.

"Like all the others."

"That does not worry me, no. I am upset about that sector official. I am sorry that he, too, is a communist.... I did not want to put my cow in a small herd. I kept it till the end, because I saw other people left without milk. My husband came home late one night and said we must follow the decision. Send it, I said, with all the rest of the village. The next morning, it was scarcely dawn when I heard the voice of the sector official in the yard. When I went out, he had driven the cow out of its barn himself. "Have I cleaned out your cowshed?" he said to me. I watched and said nothing. "Have I cleaned out your cowshed?" he bragged again. "The party does not talk like that," I replied, "and you are a communist! You scoundrel, talking about cleaning out my cowshed, may you break your head!" I said.

He hid behind the party's authority. The "scientific" blindness of certain animal husbandry experts or veterinarians prevailed; they "justified" hens being put in coops in articles which stated that in this way their meat and egg yields would improve significantly. How could a prison for chickens improve yields?

There is great scope for pluralist thinking, but it cannot exist if it is confined only to things which have been said over and over again. A snail raises its two little horns and the finest blade of grass is enough for him to draw them in again. This is what happens when some people touch "delicate" issues, lest they make a "political mistake." The experience of democratization so far shows that not even the changes emphasized by the party plenums can be carried out without demolishing "sacred," apparently inviolable barriers.

We accept in theory that practice is the criterion of truth. In fact, certain untruths do not hold water. Let us take certain developments in the mountainous areas of the country, in connection with small livestock. We take as an example the cooperative of Hurdhe-Muhurr, which includes three villages on the slopes of Mount Runje. (One could take any mountainous cooperative in Diber District.)

The cooperativists enthusiastically welcomed the expansion of their plots with livestock and land. Gezim, secretary of the Bulac party organization, said: "The house itself seemed to smile the day I drove a goat into the yard." One learns that every family in this area has one or more members working in the state sector, in the mines, in the forests, as clerks, or in pasture management. Few families earn less than 2,000 leks, and most earn as much as two annual state salaries, from the collection of medicinal herbs for export alone. The positive picture is completed by cultural emancipation, advanced life-styles, and electric appliances, and above all by the flour store. People have shed from their shoulders a centuries-old burden, the satchel of corn. If it had done no more than remove the "pain" which the corn cob caused us through the centuries, the socialist order would be a monumental achievement in the highlands.

There is another side. Before collectivization in 1967, these three villages kept more than 10,000 head of small livestock, with half the number of inhabitants. Now the cooperative keeps 1,300 sheep and goats, one-eighth of the earlier number, and it can barely maintain those it has. (Stock raising incurs losses throughout the district.) Since the creation of the cooperative, the value of a day's work has been very low. State investments keep the highlands supplied with meat!

"By 1995, we as a cooperative will organize 6,000 head of small livestock. We have drawn up a program," the livestock specialist says.

"You had programs before, and even though the cooperativists were as you might say stripped of their land and livestock, paper remained paper. How are you going to realize this step?"

Facts are facts: cooperativism in the highlands has done drastic harm to stockraising. Managers and specialists in this area hide behind their programs, because they share a single worry: They want to survive and to receive their pay for shuffling paper, while leaving the millstones to turn without a single grain. Can economic logic accept the existence of a management team of 13 for only 1,300 small livestock and a total of 95 hectares of land? (The village of Shqath, with 500 inhabitants, has only six hectares of land. In many other villages of the district, such as Gure-Lure, etc., land for the cooperative virtually no longer exists.)

I purposely mentioned at the start the achievements socialism has brought to the highlands. Without these achievements, life would be a disaster. Can we continue with such organizational schemes? I think not. Let the highlander keep his livestock in his own household, as he has done for thousands of years. Let us set this tradition in motion, and exploit this above-ground mine with the peasants' ideas and labor. Our state would not only be liberated from a heavy burden of expenditure, but would earn large revenues from a mature, graduated fiscal policy. In the future, too, our society must guarantee bread for the highlands, as it does today, as well as chemical fertilizer, seeds, veterinary services, and so forth, against payment.

The aim of collectivization in the highlands was first of all to boost production, because other matters depend on this. As for eliminating exploitation, that was accomplished with the victory of the people's revolution on 29 November 1944. The grant of that little land which remained, therefore, served the homeland. If the mountains were filled with livestock, we would have incalculable national wealth which would belong to us all. With the specific mountainous conditions of our country and the demographic policy of populating the mountains which has been followed, the transfer of livestock to private property would have major economic and ecological advantages. It would inaugurate cooperation between all the forms of property in our country: state, group, and personal, which would assist and supplement each other. Has not such a practice been successfully introduced in the private service and handicraft outlets alongside those of the state? I would answer any worry about the psychology of private property by saying that the highlander who stands watching his flock in snow and rain has a much cleaner conscience toward society that the private restaurant owner who stands by his fire and tape recorder selling shish-kebab and brandy! Every person becomes political when he takes the homeland's honor as his magnetic north. We as a people have our national tradition, and our pure spiritual resources. This national logic has enabled us to survive through the centuries.

Popov Holds First Meeting With New Cabinet

AU2012203290 Sofia BTA in English 2005 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—The new Council of Ministers held its first session today. Prime Minister Dimitur Popov stressed that the programme of the Council of Ministers, which will be presented to the Grand National Assembly in the next few days, will include all fundamental formulations of the agreement between the parliamentary political forces. "We are a government of the peaceful transition from one system to another," the leader of the government said. This transition will start from the methods of work. The transition to market economy should be started wisely.

Most serious attention will be paid to those things which are in the most alarming state now—medicines, baby food, the supply of the population with the basic foodstuffs and the energy resources. A day-to-day and week-to-week work schedule is being prepared for the implementation of these tasks.

Kostov on Structure, Plans for New Government

AU2012184890 Sofia BTA in English 1823 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—Minutes after being sworn in before the Grand National Assembly, the new ministers started discussing among themselves the first initiatives of the cabinet. It has still not been specified how the ministries will be distributed for observation among the deputies of Prime Minister Dimitur Popov. It is supposed that Aleksandur Tomov of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] will "take" the economic ministries.

Unlike the former socialist governments, the new cabinet has fewer ministries. Now they are 15 and in the last Socialist cabinet their number was 18. There is no Ministry of Construction and the structure of the economic ministries has been changed.

The present minister of finance, Mr. Ivan Kostov (of the UDF) [Union of Democratic Forces—SDS] insisted on a Ministry of Finance and on a united economic ministry which would take in the former Ministries of Industry and Technologies, of Economy and Planning, of Home Trade and of Foreign Economic Relations with considerable reductions. And this is almost the case in the new multicolour government—Mr. Ivan Pushkarov of the UDF heads the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Services. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has remained and it is headed by the Socialist Atanas Paparizov. A leader of the opposition explained that it would gradually lose its functions. The task of the Council of Ministers is to create normal conditions for the work of the enterprises, the conditions of a market economy, and to regulate rather than govern, Mr. Ivan Kostov said.

The minister said the following to a BTA reporter: The economic programme is now being worked out in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund. The time, when questions could be raised about the authorship of the programme, was lost. This country's sovereignty in the field of its economic policy has been lost to a considerable extent. The UDF warned of this as early as February and March this year, Mr. Ivan Kostov recalled.

One of the first steps of the new ministers will be to solve the opposition's pet problem of the bank.

According to a participant in the talks which led to the formation of the new government, some of the numerous committees with the Council of Ministers will be closed down and others will be transformed into agencies. Most probably there will be state secretaries as well.

Interior Ministry TU Hails Danov Appointment

AU2012183790 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Employees welcomed the decisions of appointing Khristo Danov as minister of internal affairs.

This appointment is likely to guarantee the complete depoliticization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs organs and the supremacy of the law in their activities, the federation's declaration points out.

Mr. Danov's political nonaffiliation, his legal training, and great professional experience are in full conformity with our preferences which we already expressed.

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Employees expect the competent organs to take also their other demands into consideration. This includes the request that a law on the police and provisional regulations on the work of the National Commission for the Defense of the Constitution should be adopted by the end of January 1990, the request that the National Security Council should publicly express its stand on the protection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs organs against unjustified politically motivated attacks, the request that the council should submit recommendations and evaluations on actions in critical situations.

The federation insists that the 1991 budget should envisage means for solving the extremely urgent social problems of Ministry of Internal Affairs employees.

DFS Does Not Take Stand on New Cabinet

AU2012154790 Sofia BTA in English 1449 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—Early this morning, in the very first hours of the day, before the voting for the cabinet of Mr. Dimitur Popov began, the representatives of the UDF [Union of Democratic Forces—SDS] and of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party said that they support the new government. BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] leader Aleksandur Lilov wished the new cabinet success. Only

the deputies of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) did not express their view of the new cabinet.

They took part in the consultations on the cabinet almost till the last moment. They would have accepted a ministerial post if the main political forces had told them "it was imperative"—a DPS deputy told the BTA.

The leader of the UDF Mr. Filip Dimitrov expressed the opinion that this wait-and-see stand of the DPS is correct—dangerous moods should not be provoked in the regions of a mixed ethnic population.

The twenty-three M.P's of the movement have some reservations as regards Mr. Popov's government. The number of UDF ministers is insufficient, the same DPS deputy said. The movement is also displeased with the fact that quite a few people of Lukanov's government have remained. They openly dislike some of them because of their nationalist statements.

The DPS has mixed feelings towards the new Prime Minister. Popov. He has played a considerable role in the formation of the cabinet but the mistake he made with the provisional administrations is unforgivable, the DPS deputies believe. In an interview for the RUSE DNES daily he gave a week before he became Prime Minister, Mr. Popov made some inadvertent statements about the so-called Razgrad Republic.

Antiterrorist Official Notes Increase in Attacks

AU2012130990 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 17 Dec 90 p 1, 2

[Plamen Enchev article: "The Defused Bomb Is the Terrorist's Passport"]

[Text] In the West a terrorist can enter a supermarket and, within a short time, make a bomb with his bare hands out of the things he finds on the shelves which would cause an explosion that could blow up a whole supermarket. This is impossible in our country today and it will be impossible within the next few years.

However, the threat of terrorist acts has become so frequent recently that the special security services regard it as an everyday occurance. Such threats are as familiar to every one of us as the endless lines in front of the food stores.

As many as 37 cases of terrorist threats by telephone announcing explosive devices hidden in public buildings, schools, private automobiles, and apartments were recorded over the last 15 days. Numerous forgotten packages and luggage that might contain explosive devices were investigated over the same period.

The first real bomb exploded in Sofia on 7 November 1990, in front of the 12th Municipal Precinct of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The great fuss that was made about the so-called files of informers for the former Sixth State Security Department surprisingly interfered with our work, Colonel Engineer Ivan Boyadzhiev, deputy chief of the Operational-Technical Information Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs explained. Two excellent specialists from a higher educational institution, who until recently acted as our advisers, refused to assist us after the bomb explosion at the 12th Municipal Precinct in Sofia.

On 27 November 1990 the police forces were alerted about a bomb hidden in the "Sofia" Department Store. An anonymous female telephoned the store a second time, repeating the bomb threat. One of the employees of the operational-technical antiterrorism department took the call and kept the female would-be terrorist talking for half an hour. She informed him in a very professional manner how a bomb is made, and where it could be installed, but did not disclose where exactly the bomb could be found in the department store. The employees finally managed to persuade the woman that the bomb should not explode within an hour. This half-hour conversation was long enough for the post office to be able to trace the call. However, the post office categorically refused to trace the call. The "shadow" of the "total bugging" of the pre-10 November 1989 era prevented the security services from identifying a person whose actions were likely to represent a future potential threat for our society.

A similar case occurred in the Pravets Motel when the refusal of the postal services to trace the call of a threatening male caller prevented the security forces from identifying him.

Even after careful investigation no bombs were found in either the aforementioned department store or the motel. According to international requirements, no one should be allowed to enter the building in question within 24 hours following a bomb threat. In the opposite case the owner has to sign a special declaration. This is what the students on strike did at Sofia University on 6 November 1990, when a similar fake bomb threat was announced.

Threats by telephone have been recorded in connection with several schools in the capital. As many as four threatening telephone calls have been addressed in particular to School No. 133 in Sofia over the last month. It is significant that schools whose teachers refused to join the strike were special targets of bomb threats.

Colonel Boyadzhiev pointed out: "We have no police law specifying the operational-technical means that we should use in our work." He added that in Hungary, for example, control over such police operations is exerted by an independent commission which includes a number of parliament members.

Terrorism in our country was until recently divided into terrorist acts directed against the general public and those against the state. According to the specialists, this distinction is invalid. They are now distinguishing

between telephone bomb threats, terrorist acts based on homemade explosives, and assaults against individuals.

Special U.S.-made equipment for detecting explosives by neutron radiation costs over $1 million. X-ray equipment is used in our country for this purpose, which is not exactly safe for the people handling it. Special German-made robots for such purposes costing $250,000 are also very expensive. We have some Bulgarian models of the same equipment based on designs of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, but it is not clear who should provide the necessary financial resources in our difficult times.

Cases of detecting effective explosive devices are reported every 25 days on average. Some of them are made public, others are known only to specialists, because of a misunderstood sense of secrecy and discretion. In the recent past some local dignitaries even failed to inform the department in charge of combating terrorism about such cases, being afraid of "discrediting" themselves in the eyes of their bosses in the capital.

As Colonel Boyadzhiev says: "A defused bomb is the terrorist's passport. We never make the bombs explode but try to defuse them, even at the risk of our own lives. This is our point of departure in detecting terrorists."

"Unfortunately, four years ago I forecast that terrorism was likely to increase in our country, and I was right," Colonel Boyadzhiev added. We can expect an increase of terrorist acts based on political motivations in the future. The same applies to such acts in the economic sphere. Terrorism is the most cruel attack against innocent people.

Podkrepa's Trenchev Comments on 'War of Files'

AU2012124390 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 17 Dec 90 p 2

[Plovdiv correspondent Stefan Severin report: "A Syndrome of Shunning Power Exists According to Trenchev"]

[Text] Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, chairman of the Podkrepa Trade Union Confederation, declared as follows at a briefing in Plovdiv: "I am surprised that my name has been linked to the personal files—I reacted as a citizen and not as a Podkrepa representative. I would very much appreciate it if epithets, such as liar, scoundrel, and slanderer, which were addressed to me, would be referred to the president, who is expected to deal with the matter in my place. It is evident that I have nothing in common with it."

According to the speaker, the "war of files" concerns the institutions which are in possession of such files. Nevertheless, Trenchev is convinced that there are only two ways to deal with files—either to disclose them, or to forget them. The Podkrepa Trade Union Confederation has never been interested in personal files because it is solely concerned with maintaining the people's minimum living standard at a tolerable level. He pointed out charity activities as part of such efforts and announced that strict discipline has been introduced in the trade union organizations on a local level for the just distribution of the recently delivered humanitarian assistance from France, which according to him, amounts to 35 million French francs.

As to the bone of contention—namely the Ministry of Internal Affairs—Dr. Trenchev declared that this symbol of repression calls for a radical transformation. All rumors that we are supposed to give the new government a 250-day honeymoon are unfounded, Trenchev said. Podkrepa aspires to have a strong employer and we shall not obstruct the establishment of the new government.

Konstantin Trenchev declared that the syndrome of shunning power has currently become a characteristic. Trying to avoid responsibility at this critical hour which our nation is living through would be a cynical approach, he pointed out. If any political forces are shunning responsibility today, this would mean their definite end, because the people will look for other leaders, he said.

Private Businessmen's Union Reports Successes

AU2012154990 Sofia BTA in English 1454 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—"We have two private banks, one foreign trade center and one weekly; we only did not succeed in dismantling state monopoly on radio and TV broadcasts. This really means something in the anti-economic conditions we have been working in", Mr. Valentin Mollov, president of the Union of Private Enterpreneurs, said at a press conference today organized on the occasion of the union's first anniversary.

Mr. Vyacheslav Yosifov, chairman of the first private bank, announced that the bank has proved profitable; it serves about 1,500 private companies and maintains contacts with about 60 foreign banks. The firm "Primex", which is the first private foreign trade organization, has so far realized import and export transactions to the tune of about 250,000 dollars and 1.5 million leva. That was all the information provided.

Answering a question Mr. Mollov stated that being a union of companies and not of personalities the union of private enterpreneurs has no political ambitions. "The organization is striving for a new economic order with capital as its motive force and profit as its final goal, he said. Several months ago Mr. Valentin Mollov himself inspired the creation of the Bulgarian Business Bloc (a rightist bourgeois party) and that brought the criticism of both the Socialist Party and the opposition on him. Pretty soon, however, the Union of Private Enterpreneurs distanced itself from the new party explaining that "it is not elitarian [as received] enough".

New 'Edinstvo' TU Leaders Hold News Conference

AU2012210590 Sofia BTA in English 1958 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—The press conference organized by the leaders of the 'Edinstvo' ['Unity'] People's Trade Unions, Mr. Tenyu Stalev and Mr. Ognyan Bonev, provided many answers but also gave rise to many questions about the nature and the orientation of this syndical organization.

The establishment of 'Edinstvo' at the beginning of November provoked suspicions that it was a 'counterblow' of the Socialists delivered in the territory conquered by the opposition in the syndical movement, after the 'centrist' Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (the former 'official' trade unions) turned tangibly 'Blue' in November.

These suspicions were vested with official form by the leader of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions Prof. Krustyu Petkov, who openly accused the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] of creating dissent in the confederation and in the syndical movement for political purposes.

This was officially rejected by the Supreme Council of the BSP in a declaration published here yesterday on 'non-interference' in the internal affairs of the syndicates.' The Supreme Council declared that 'Edinstvo' emerged not on the initiative of the Socialists but on the self-initiative of some trade union members.

Mr. Bonev also distanced himself categorically from the Socialists today and even accused their leaders Mr. Georgi Bliznashki and Mr. Lyubomir Kyuchyukov of having forbidden BSP members in the capital and several other cities to join 'Edinstvo.' Answering a question he said that he is a member of the BSP and that he had been subjected to repressions and imprisoned for free thinking in Zhivkov's times and then condemned the attempts to place 'Edinstvo' under the ideological influence of any party.

Asked why 'Edinstvo' had moved into a former building of the BSP, Mr. Bonev said that its national leadership had moved in after the ownership over the building was taken over by the Sofia City Council and after the written sanction of the mayor Mr. Aleksandur Karakachanov, leader of the opposition Green Party.

'Edinstvo' will not repeat the mistakes of the other national syndicates—it will not become politicized and thus mark the beginning of its suicide as a syndical organization, Mr. Bonev believes.

At the press conference it was announced that the new trade unions have 670,000 members. What made them turn to 'Edinstvo' was their disappointment in the politicization of the other syndicates.

The image of the emerging third national syndical organization will probably be clarified at the forthcoming constituent congress of 'Edinstvo' to be held at the beginning of next year.

Drops in 1990 Exports, Imports Reported

AU2012114390 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 17 Dec 90 pp 1,2

[Kiril Momchilov article: "Give Me Something So That I Can Give You Something!"]

[Excerpts] The reason is not clear, but in the newspapers it is difficult, even with a magnifying glass, to discover any figures and facts whatsoever about the country's exports and imports. I personally was perplexed as to how it is possible, in conditions of complete glasnost, to pass over the statistical data in silence. As long as the figures were "dressed up," they were available, but now times are different. However, the Central Statistical Administration, in contrast to previous practice, provided me with exhaustive information on Bulgaria's goods exchange. Accordingly, so that we can convince ourselves once again of the downward slide, the comparisons will be made with the same period in 1989, while the figures in all cases denote millions of foreign currency leva.

Bulgaria's goods exchange during the first nine months of 1990 was valued at 14,915.7 million foreign currency leva, representing 79.2 percent of the figure achieved for the same period in 1989. Exports, as I assume you can guess, decreased more—to 75.7 percent of the 1989 figure—than imports, which were 82.9 percent of the 1989 figure. Let us now look at the movement of goods from and into Bulgaria according to groups of countries: Our exports to the CEMA member countries fell to 73.5 percent, while imports fell to 83.9 percent. The same percentages for the developed industrial countries, including the member countries of the EEC and the European Free Trade Association, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of South Africa, are respectively 83 and 73.7 percent. The figures for the EEC alone are 77.1 and 80 percent. The situation is better with our exports and imports to and from the developing countries. Here we achieved 94.8 and 89.4 percent respectively, while the figures for the Arab countries alone are 92.1 and 97.1 percent.

Against the background of total decline, if we examine exports and imports in relation to individual countries, we will be convinced that Bulgaria has also achieved a number of "remarkable" successes. Three of these are truly "outstanding." Our exports to Norway increased 34 times—I stress times, not percent—but to our immense regret the figure in foreign currency leva amounted to only 0.6 million, while our imports from Norway fell to 70 percent, representing 2.1 million foreign currency leva. We exported nine times more products to Ethiopia, and eight times more to Ghana, but the amounts in figures were only 11.9 and 1.5 million leva. We increased our exports to West Berlin,

Ireland, Pakistan, Mozambique, Nigeria, and New Zealand by between two and four times. We also exported more to the following countries: Albania, 161.5 percent; Denmark, 184.6 percent; the FRG, 121.4 percent; Netherlands, 114.6 percent; Sweden, 101.7 percent; Bangladesh, 100 percent; Vietnam, 113.1 percent; Mongolia, 122.3 percent; Saudi Arabia, 169.7 percent; Singapore, 100.8 percent; Turkey, 154.2 percent; Japan, 143.5 percent; Libya, 161.1 percent; Morocco, 162.5 percent; Brazil, 100 percent; and the United States, 101.3 percent.

We also noted peaks and chasms in the imports figures. We imported between two and four times more goods from Albania, Jordan, China, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Australia. We imported ten times more goods from Canada, but their value was 6.1 million foreign currency leva; from Mozambique we imported seven times more, but the value was only 5.8 million foreign currency leva; and from the Philippines we imported five times more goods, valued at only 0.5 million leva. Compared with the same period of 1989, during the first nine months of 1990 we received more goods from the following countries: Great Britain, 119.1 percent; the GDR, 102.3 percent; Denmark, 187.8 percent; Vietnam, 172.9 percent; Mongolia, 119.1 percent; Singapore, 112.2 percent; Syria, 100 percent; Algeria, 108.3 percent; Libya, 128.9 percent; Nigeria, 100 percent; and Brazil, 123.5 percent. There were sharp falls in imports from a number of West European and Asiatic countries: Imports from Finland fell to 34.3 percent; from France, to 58.2 percent; from the FRG, to 69.6 percent; from Iran, to 72.9 percent; from the DPRK, to 52.4 percent; from Turkey, to 17.3 percent; from Egypt, to 30.7 percent; from Argentina, to 50.6 percent; from Cuba, to 49.1 percent; and from the United States, to 21.5 percent.

It has never been a secret that more than half of our goods exchange has been with the Soviet Union. In recent years, it amounted to about 13 billion transferable rubles. Previously Bulgaria traded with the West mainly with goods from the "Metalkhim" and "Neftokhim" economic trusts. The first of these trusts produced almost no chemical products, but the suffix "khim" was added to its name with the evident aim of concealing a military secret.

So what will we do next year? Do not believe in miracles, the opposite is more certain. The state of affairs will not change during the current fourth quarter; it is certain that the percentages will fall even more, and that we will sink even deeper in the morass!

The export and import figures (6,078.9 and 5,730.8 foreign currency leva) for our trade with the member countries of CEMA, which itself has for practical purposes disintegrated, cannot be compared with those for trade with the developed and developing countries, where exports were valued at 560.1 and 591.5 million foreign currency leva respectively, and imports at 1,101.6 and 620.3 million leva.

The export and import figures in relation to groups of goods and individual types of goods are far from reassuring for us. We exported greater quantities only of live animals (not including animals for slaughter), valued at 4.4 million foreign currency leva, representing 209.5 percent, as well as larger quantities of raw materials for the production of food and tobacco products, valued at 219.3 million foreign currency leva, or 124.4 percent. However, do not be too hasty with your criticism, because the following picture emerges with the imports of the same groups of goods: live animals (not including those for slaughter), 100 percent, valued at 4.6 million foreign currency leva; and raw materials for the production of food and tobacco goods, 38.1 percent, valued at 176.1 million leva. However, during the first nine months of 1989, 463.2 million leva of these goods were imported—here is one of the reasons for the empty shops! Believe it or not, it is true, since only the imports of industrial (nonfood) consumer goods were higher than 100 percent, being valued at 486.3 million foreign currency leva, or 107.4 percent, while all other imports were below the levels achieved in 1989. We wish to clearly emphasize that this relates not to any plan and its fulfillment, but to the real results in Bulgaria's exports or imports. [passage omitted]

We have traveled many times to the West and returned with empty shopping bags. May God grant that this will be different in the future. Even worse, we have started to come home with empty bags from the East as well. [passage omitted]

The failures of Eastern European countries to deliver contracted amounts of goods valued at tens of millions of foreign currency leva are indicative of the trend. The percentage figures relating to our exports and imports to and from Eastern European countries are also illustrative: for the GDR, 56.2 and 102.3 percent respectively; for Poland, 48.2 and 96.7 percent; Romania, 97.2 and 61.3 percent; the USSR, 74.8 and 84.1 percent; Hungary, 104.1 and 42.7 percent; and Czechoslovakia, 77.8 and 80.7 percent. Nor is our goods exchange with Cuba enviable, since here the figures are 55.1 and 49.1 percent respectively.

Seen against the background of figures and percentages, the stories about Bulgaria's exports during the first nine months of this year seem laughable. Certain newspapers have already stated that during the first nine months Bulgaria exported less food goods that it imported, to the tune of 80 million foreign currency leva. With regard to our goods exchange with the Soviet Union, two-thirds of out total exports of agricultural products consisted of tobacco, wine, and cigarettes. For one tonne of poultry meat exported to the USSR, we receive 10 tonnes of petroleum, whereas for a tonne of meat exported to the West we receive five tonnes of petroleum! We should also add that Bulgaria satisfies its requirements relating to natural gas, coal, electric power, ores, timber, cellulose, and paper totally from the Soviet Union, not to mention petroleum and cotton, goods of strategic importance. We should no longer close our eyes, but should

face the naked truth: For years on end, the Soviet Union has been for us a huge supplier of raw materials and a boundless market, to which we offered for sale only a very small proportion of the products which we manufactured with its raw materials. What is more, between 1979 and 1985 we received from the USSR free grants of R2.8 billion for the development of agriculture, light industry, and tourism, but the top party leadership redirected this money elsewhere. In addition, incentive supplements to the export prices of individual agricultural goods for the Soviet market have been retained to this very day. [passage omitted]

Ban on Gasoline Sales Ends; Shortages Persist

AU2012122190 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The temporary ban on gasoline sales has been canceled, but the difficulties involving gasoline production still persist.

According to our Burgas correspondent Rositsa Spasova, the Burgas Petrochemical Plant's installations are working at minimal capacity. Only 10,000 to 12,000 tons of oil are processed daily, which means four times less than the plant's capacity.

The installations of the organic [word indistinct] and polymeric production (?workshops) have discontinued their work and the workers are on compulsory leave.

At this moment two tankers carrying 130,000 tons of oil from the Soviet Union and Syria are being unloaded at the Port of (?Varna). These amounts should cover 50 percent of the country's consumers' needs for the period up to the end of December. The problem of the regular oil supplies for next year, 1991, remains open, but let us not look so far into the future. I have a telephone connection with Mr. Evgeni Popov, a name which has recently become familiar to our listeners. He is the head of the Sofia Petrol Administration. Mr. Popov, what is the situation in the capital and countryside?

[Begin Popov recording] How do you do, Mr. Stefanov? You were a great help for me with your introduction, namely with your report on the Burgas Petrochemical Plant. The situation in Sofia is rather difficult for the time being. Over 33 gasoline stations have only minimal supplies of gasoline. As I said, the situation is critical, the supplies are minimal, and I cannot do anything else but appeal to our citizens to keep calm. The resources which are available to us will permit us to provide minimal gasoline supplies for a certain number of gasoline stations within the next two or three days.

[Announcer] Does this apply to the whole country?

[Popov] As far as countrywide conditions are concerned, the situation is more or less the same. As you already pointed out, people should realize that for the time being the Petrol Administration is receiving approximately five times less amounts of fuel than are necessary to cover the countrywide needs.

With such minimal amounts of fuel it is difficult to cover even the most important social spheres, such as the supply with bread, milk, medical supplies, city transport, and so forth. [end recording]

Nation's Leading Economist Named, Honored

AU2012164990 Sofia BTA in English 1610 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—Professor Dr. Georgi Petrov is the first winner of the title "Economist of the Year" in Bulgaria.

He was chosen by the Bulgarian Union of Economists, the specialized "IKONOMIKA" magazine and the "168 CHASA" weekly of private businessmen.

Professor Petrov was preferred among the other candidates for his publications in books, newspapers and magazines in this difficult year for Bulgaria's economy.

Bulgaria's "Mr. Economy 1990" is a little over 60. He is still lecturing at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia. Since 1952 he has read lectures in "Enterprise Finances," "State Budget" and "Finances and Credit".

He is known in the scientific circles as an advocate of the market economy. When the first economic disputes on the market economy began in the autumn of 1989, Professor Petrov sat next to his younger colleagues, who have become well-known today—Ivan Kostov and Ivan Pushkarov, Ventsislav Dimitrov, Rumen Avramov and Ventsislav Antonov. Now they are MP's of the UDF [Union of Democratic Forces—SDS] and Kostov and Pushkarov became ministers last night. Antonov is one of the president's advisers. Professor Petrov as if led them off. And they do not hide that they owe him a lot. He describes them as "capable, talented and erudite young people, free of dogmatism".

In his very first book published in 1969 "Commodity Relations and Price Formation in Socialism" Professor Petrov criticized the theory and practice of the socialist economic system. But naturally this criticism was presented in an Aesopian way.

Professor Petrov's latest work "The Collapse of the Totalitarian Economy" was brought out this year. The book was written in the "time of prohibitions" and this is obvious. It was accidentally completed on November 10, 1989, the day on which Todor Zhivkov was removed from power. On almost 200 pages Professor Petrov analyzes how with their consolidation in power the Communists slowly but surely destroyed private property in Bulgaria.

Over the past year events developed so quickly that even the boldest and most extreme assessments in the book

sound restrained and quite modest today. But the Professor has been awarded the "Mr. Economy" title for his perseverance in defending the market economy.

I do not have the strength, the time and the desire to plunge into practice, Professor Petrov said. He regards the "Mr. Economy" title not merely as a personal recognition. It has marked the beginning of paying greater attention to economic sciences in Bulgaria, he said.

Prime Minster Popov Receives IMF Delegation

AU2012224690 Sofia BTA in English 2052 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Dec (BTA)—Today Prime Minister Dimitur Popov received a mission of the International Monetary Fund, led by Mr. Anup Singh, visiting Bulgaria for the final talks on the agreement on a stabilization loan to Bulgaria.

The prime minister confirmed the readiness of the Bulgarian Government to act as quickly as possible for the preparation of the stabilization programme by January 9.

Israeli Friendship Society Organizes Aid Program

AU2012135390 Sofia BTA in English 1330 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Jerusalem, 20 Dec (BTA)—A national committee for granting humanitarian aid to the Bulgarian people who are having hard times has been founded here on the initiative of the Israeli-Bulgarian Friendship Society.

The main goal of the committee will be to secure the support of the government and other official institutions, as well as of private persons and organizations for providing the Bulgarians and children and ill people in particular with foodstuffs and medicines.

Mr. Viktor Shemtov, chairman of the Israeli-Bulgarian Friendship Society, said that their leadership had informed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of its relief campaign and appealed on him to render assistance to the committee.

It was announced at the constituent meeting that Mr. Ehud Olmert, minister of health, was ready to take up the sponsorship of the relief campaign. As a token of goodwill the Israeli Foreign Ministry contributed 5,000 dollars to the fund set up by the committee. Mr. Viktor Shemtov, businessmen Itzhak Pardo, Beniamin Alves and other people followed suit.

Christian Democrats Criticize Havel Speech

AU2012103090 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 15 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Bratislava—"The approval of the final version of the jurisdiction law in the Federal Assembly came as a relief to the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH], but it also brought obvious dissatisfaction," declares a statement issued to CTK by the KDH Secretariat. Throughout the dispute an atmosphere prevailed—which was not the fault of the Slovak side—of suspicious tendencies leading toward the destruction of the federation. However, the course of the debates demonstrates the Slovaks' honest endeavor and the shift in the proceedings toward substantive arguments reveals that they want to finally eradicate all suspicions. It is necessary to describe as remarkable the fact that the direct negotiations between Czech and Slovak representatives proceeded in a calm and matter-of-fact atmosphere. Problems always arise when Federal Government representatives become involved in the proceedings," declares the statement.

The KDH also criticizes the speech delivered by the president of the Republic who "to our regret, has gratuitously abandoned his role as an impartial arbiter and has unequivocally adopted the point of view of one side."

Parliamentary Committees Discuss Budget Issues

AU1912152390 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 15 Dec 90 pp 1,2

["(NEL)"-signed report: "A Critical First Quarter"]

[Text] Prague—Economic development next year will be extraordinarily complicated—first and foremost—during the first three or four months, stated Josef Tosovsky, chairman of the Czechoslovak State Bank [SBCS], at yesterday's session of the Federal Assembly Planning and Budget Committees. The bank expects a 10 percent economic decline and, if too high price increases can be prevented, the annual rate of inflation could be stabilized between 25 and 30 percent.

Mr. Tosovsky, who explained the SBCS' budget capital to the committees, stressed that it will be important not to succumb to the pressure of social demagogy and the economic microsphere. The bank will also assert relative stability for the koruna's rate of exchange, thus establishing certain guarantees for entrepreneurs.

CSFR Transportation Minister Jiri Nezval spoke in the committees about his department's budget. The following are the most important figures: According to the draft, noninvestment subsidies for the railroad should amount to 1.049 billion korunas—however, 2.1 billion korunas would be needed to compensate for passenger transportation alone. Investment subsidies amounting to 2.045 billion korunas are envisaged; 3.650 billion korunas would satisfy needs. In short, the railroad system would require at least 3 billion korunas more overall so that it can be modernized and maintained like the European railroad network. There are 547 km of expressways in Czechoslovakia. However, in order to link them to European networks, we have to construct another 800 km. This would cost 80 billion korunas—next year the department will have 1 billion korunas at its disposal. Offers received from 22 companies (including one of ours) to invest in the development of Czechoslovak expressways are conditional upon the collection of a "toll," that is, a surcharge for using the expressway....

The Defense and Security Committees discussed the Czechoslovak Army's budget behind closed doors. It was rumored in the lobbies that there are proposals to reduce military expenditure by 2.5 billion korunas in contradiction to the contemplated calculations.

The Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committees again convened to discuss an extremely important document—the draft Document on Basic Rights and Freedoms. The deputies discussed the initialed version of the constitutional law and the documents on the basis of a draft which is the synthesis of proposals put forward by both national councils.

Parliament Approves 1989 Closing Account

LD1912203890 Prague CTK in English 1902 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 19 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) approved here today without debate Czechoslovakia's closing account for 1989.

Submitting its draft to the deputies, Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus said that the figures stated in it reflect the crisis of the central command economy.

Evident last year was a slower rate of economic growth, economic imbalance deepened and production efficiency remained at a low level. The deficit totalled 3,500 million crowns even though 10,000 million crowns were drawn from state assets.

Klaus said that the 1990 anti-inflationary budget envisaging a surplus meant an essential breakthrough in the economic practice of subordinating the state budget to the plan, and the beginning of a consistent policy of restrictions.

In the first 11 months this year, the budgetary surplus was 5,900 million crowns (the planned surplus is 5,400 million crowns), Klaus told the deputies.

The 10th joint session of the House of Nations and the House of the People continues tomorrow.

The program of the 11th joint session due on January 8-9, 1991, which was approved today, will include approval of the charter of fundamental human rights and freedoms and of a new order of procedure of the Federal Assembly, and a speech will be delivered by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstiber.

Further line in discussing the bill on strategic planning, which was not approved by the Czech part of the House of Nations, will be decided by the parliament's presidium on January 7, 1991.

Finance Minister Outlines 1991 Federal Budget

LD2012182790 Prague CTK in English 1332 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 20 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia's national income [in 1991] will be about five per cent lower than this year, the rate of inflation is expected to reach 30 per cent, and unemployment will affect about five to seven per cent of the work force, Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus told Federal parliament here today.

He added that Czechoslovakia's foreign debt will go up by 3,000 million dollars from the present 7,800 million dollars.

Klaus was speaking before the 10th joint session of the House of the People and the House of Nations discussing the draft federal budget for 1991.

He said that the draft is the major economic document for next year, outlining the fundamental goals of the economic policy, i.e. transition to market economy, stabilization of the economy, anti-inflationary measures and effort to build a social salvation network. The budget also takes into consideration the unfavourable development of external economic relations characterized by the disintegration of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the profound crisis of the USSR, loss of a big part of the former GDR market, and transition to world prices and payments in convertible currency in foreign trade.

The three state budgets—Federal, Czech and Slovak—will envisage market cuts in subsidies to enterprises and reduction of re-distribution processes, Klaus said.

The aggregate revenues will be 472,000 million crowns, expenditures 464,000 million crowns and a surplus of 8,000 million crowns. The biggest expenditure will go to the social sphere (57 per cent of the overall figure).

The federal budget whose revenues are envisaged at 108,600 million crowns, i.e. a mere 22 per cent of Czechoslovakia's budgetary spendings, provides only limited scope for active economic policy of the Federal Government. This will aggravate exercise of its role in macroeconomic regulation, Klaus said.

He added that the biggest federation's expenditures will go to defence.

Assembly Approves 1991 Budget

LD2012191690 Prague CTK in English 1819 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 20 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Federal Assembly deputies approved here today a bill on the federation's budget for 1991.

The 1991 budgetary incomes will thus total 108,600 million crowns, expenditures 102,400 million crowns and surplus 6,200 million. The budget of the Defence Ministry decreased by five per cent from 28 to 26.5 per cent. The money saved will go to cover emergency situations.

Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus said that the bill on the federation's budget is not a bill of the Finance Ministry but a bill of the Federal Government. He warned against concrete changes in individual items as they are not ensured from the investments' and suppliers' point of view.

The Federal Assembly (parliament) House of Nations and House of the People rejected all seven amendments to the bill.

The parliament will not be in session this year. Both houses will meet at a joint session on January 8, 1991.

Statistics Office Issues 11-Month Economic Report

AU2012110590 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 17 Dec 90 p 1

["(vl)"-signed report: "Record Retail Turnover"]

[Text] Against all expectations, the drop in industrial output slowed down. According to preliminary data from the Federal Statistics Office, industrial output recorded a mere 1.3 percent drop compared to November last year.

Nevertheless, since the beginning of this year, the overall drop represents 3.7 percent, while average daily output dropped by only 2.4 percent (since there were three fewer working days). This year's drop can be seen mostly in the chemical (lower crude oil deliveries), the mining, and the engineering industries. This contrasts with the quite favorable situation in industrial branches such as the glass and china industry, the textile industry, the printing industry, and the medical supplies industry.

In the centrally controlled civil engineering industry, the volume of civil engineering production carried out by the industry's own workers over 11 months was by 8.5 percent lower then over the same period last year. Also the number of workers was lower by 6.2 percent and labor productivity per worker dropped by 2.5 percent.

A total of 148,000 tonnes of meat was procured in October, that is, 99.8 percent of the total in the previous year. In November, however, procurement dropped to 134,000 tonnes, which is, compared to the previous year, only 90.8 percent. In contrast to this, the procurement of poultry was 6.8 percent higher than last November. The procurement of eggs was lower than last November (91.2 percent).

The retail trade turnover in the main retailing systems reached 278.4 billion korunas over the period of 11 months, which represents a 9.7 percent growth compared to the previous year. From this, we have to subtract the influence of price changes, however, particularly in the second half of the year. In November, the turnover was 32.7 billion korunas, which is a 22.3 percent increase compared to last November—23.8 percent in the Slovak Republic and 21.5 percent in the Czech Republic. As far as the various regions are concerned, retail turnover increased mostly in West Bohemia (25.1 percent) and in East Slovakia (24.9 percent). The smallest increase was recorded in North Bohemia (17.0 percent) and in Central Bohemia (18.7 percent).

Langos Abolishes Democracy Protection Office

LD2012224190 Prague CTK in English 2152 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 20 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Interior Minister Jan Langos abolished here today the ministry's Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy and established a federal information service.

Interior Ministry's spokesman Martin Fendrych told CTK that in his order Langos demanded that all buildings and materials kept there be ensured in such a way to prevent a leak of secret information.

The Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy was founded on February 10, 1990 by the order of the then Interior Minister Richard Sacher after secret police (StB) sections were abolished. The office was to be replaced by a federal intelligence service which was to be separated from the Interior Ministry and subordinated to the parliament.

Defense Ministry Briefing on Military Policies

LD1912161290 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] A regular briefing ended a short while ago at the Defense Ministry in Prague. Our colleague Miroslav Mlynar attended it on behalf of the Radio Journal:

[Mlynar] To date 19,151 soldiers in national service have asked to be transferred to civilian service—from this number 16,477 soldiers have been released from the Army, from which 5,051 people have been employed by 7 December.

On 28-30 December several Czechoslovak army planes will be transporting to the Chernobyl area—where Volhynian Czechs live, too—carrying 20 tonnes of medical suplies, fruit, and foodstuffs.

The main topic at the briefing, however, was a report on the setting up of an administration for contacts with the public. This administration will learn and analyze processes inside the society which influence the implementation of the military policy of the state, to process and to implement projects aiming at the creation of a favourable social climate for the fulfillment of tasks of the Czechoslovak Army. The administration is headed by a civilian—Dr. (Zdenek Borkovec).

Federal Government Views Radio, TV Power Sharing

LD2012221390 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2100 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Federal Government discussed in Prague today, among other things, power-sharing in radio and television. As Deputy Federal Prime Minister Jozef Miklosko told journalists, the republics should acquire the right to set up television and radio organizations. The federation too will have the right to set up its own television and radio. The government did not adopt any conditions regarding federal radio broadcasts. Federal television should have journalistic and editorial activities in its program, as well as programs concerning the federation.

Jozef Miklosko went on to say that the organizations will be exempt from the moratorium on property. Only the former Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association, SVAZARM; the Union of Women; the Disabled Union; and sports organizations administering property that was owned originally by Sokol and Orel, will not be able to dispose of property. The Federal Government also approved today pay increases to clergy.

Iranians Offer Oil in Return for Slovak Goods

AU2012190090 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Dec 90 p 1

["(NO)" and "(ST)"-signed report: "Will There Be Oil From Iran"]

[Text] Bratislava—Following yesterday's visit by an Iranian delegation to the Slovak Republic, hopes were raised that our refineries would be supplied with Iranian oil.

As Ladislav Sandtner, the director of a department in the Slovak Industry Ministry, informed us, the Iranians were interested in gaining our help in the reconstruction of their war damaged economy. They are specifically interested in chemical, tanning, textile, metallurgical, and cement technologies.

As Yaha Aleshagh [spelling as published], leader of the Iranian delegation, said: "We will offer oil in exchange for your rubber, iron, paper, processed timber, and other consumer products. At the same time, of course, we are also counting on the participation of Czechoslovak experts in the construction and operation of the plants and technologies supplied."

This information is also interesting for Slovakia because, according to recent reports, the rules agreed by the national governments for the establishment and operation of a supranational corporation—called TRANSPETROL—have been placed in doubt, but not by the Slovak side, and are the subject of further negotiations.

Trade, Economic Agreement Signed With Iran

LD2012221890 Prague CTK in English 2057 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 20 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy and Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh signed here today a protocol providing for extension of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in the future.

The document was signed at the end of talks of the mixed commission for economic, scientific and technological cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Iran.

In the past days dozens of Czechoslovak and Iranian experts discussed the possibilities of Czechoslovak exports of complete plants in the power, matallurgical, ceramic, textile, leather and other industries. The Czechoslovak

side confirmed the interest in the purchase of three to five million tonnes of Iran's oil a year. Under discussion were also supplies of natural gas from Iran and ways of payments of these raw materials.

Representatives of the Iranian parliament met here today with representatives of the Federal Assembly (parliament) economic committees.

The Iranian guests were interested in the possibility of establishing better contacts in industry, agriculture, forestry and trade in general. The Czechoslovak deputies accepted an invitation to visit the Iranian parliament conveyed to them by their Iranian colleagues.

Svoboda Interviewed on Baltic Working Visit

AU2012124990 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 17 Dec 90 p 4

[Interview with Jiri Svoboda, chairman of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, by PRAVDA reporter Vladimir Jancura; in Moscow on 16 December: "Soviet Baltic Republics From Nearby"—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] A delegation of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia [KSCM] led by KSCM Chairman Jiri Svoboda was paying a working visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee in the last few days. Following a meeting with CPSU Central Committee Secretary Valentin Falin in Moscow, it departed for the Baltic republics on Wednesday [12 December]. Yesterday, prior to its departure for home, the delegation briefly stopped in the Soviet capital again. Before departing Moscow, J. Svoboda told us, among other things:

The information being offered to us about the Baltic republics by the media is often purpose-made and does not always quite conform with the reality. This reality appears to be far more complicated. According to our findings, one cannot speak about a nationwide desire to secede from the union. This is at least true of the two republics which we visited, Lithuania and Latvia. One should consider the very fact that hundreds of thousands of people almost incessantly and very actively declare their determination to stay within the USSR's framework, while at the same time preserving the sovereignty of the republics.

In Vilnius and in Riga we were received by the first secretaries of the Central Committees of parties operating on the CPSU platform and we had meetings with district functionaries and rank-and-file communists from factories. We did not, however, meet with representatives of "independent" parties which have broken away from the CPSU as these parties are preoccupied with their internal party problems. In Latvia the splinter party has only few members and its influence is immaterial. Brazauskas' party in Lithuania is going through a period of internal split. We are taking away with us the lesson that split, which is motivated mostly by the personal ambition of politicians and not by objective targets, narrows down the chances of the left-wing movement to effectively operate in the political system as an opposition partner.

Government Discusses Immigration Measures

LD2012164190 Prague CTK in English 1538 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 20 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Government got acquainted today with measures being taken to protect the country from an expected migratory influx of foreigners, particularly from the Soviet Union.

Even as the USSR faces possible economic collapse it is preparing a law that will guarantee freedom of travel to Soviet citizens, a combination of circumstances that leads the government here to believe that Czechoslovakia may be used as a "stopover point" by Soviet emigres making their way west to the developed countries of Western Europe. As West European governments have already begun to approve strict preventive measures against this expected tide, it is even possible that emigrants will attempt to remain in Czechoslovakia permanently.

The goal of Czechoslovak policy thus will be to regulate the influx of foreigners using various measures, including strengthening its border defences, securing international cooperation in resolving migration issues and also adjusting its tourist policies. Obligatory visas, currency exchange requirements, and a continuation of the obligatory written invitation for Soviet citizens are just a few of the means at the government's disposal. Stricter penalties for persons who organise illegal border crossings are also likely.

The Czechoslovak Government is convinced, however, that the problem of emigration must ultimately be resolved through international cooperation and is now pursuing the matter in such multilateral forums as the United Nations, the Pentagonal and the Council of Europe, which is already devoting special attention to this issue.

Meanwhile the Defence Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior have been charged with preparing a proposal for a legal revision that will allow the Czechoslovak Army to be used to intercept immigrants.

Bratislava Dec 20—Five refugee camps for Soviet emigrants will be set up here in Slovakia, to be paid for with the help of a special fund established by the Czechoslovak Red Cross, announced director of the Slovak Red Cross Committee Fedor Liska at a press conference today.

"It is necessary to resolve the refugee problem so that Czechoslovak citizens will suffer as little as possible, since they already expect to encounter a higher cost of living in the year to come," said Liska.

The Czechoslovak Red Cross has contacted officials of the International Red Cross in Geneva and is counting on their assistance to solve this problem. Assuming there may be a risk of infection from the refugees there will be a need for doctors and medicine in the camps, added Liska.

Seeks Approval To Use Army

LD2012123790 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Federal Government at its session today acquainted itself with a report on measures to protect Czechoslovak territory against foreign immigration. It has ordered its members to ensure tasks which come under their powers. The urgency of the measures to protect against foreign migration is emphasized at present by the situation in the Soviet Union—both from the point of view of the possible collapse of the economy and also taking into account the planned bill which should ensure free travel for Soviet citizens.

The aim of the protective measures will dwell considerably on the influx of foreigners to our territory. The federal government also ordered the ministers of the interior and defense to prepare as soon as possible a draft legal amendment to the defense bill making it possible for the Army to be used to contain the migration waves.

Soviet Secret Police Victims Set Up Association

AU2012124790 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 17 Dec 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Association of the Forcibly Deported"]

[Text] Bratislava— The Slovak Association of the Forcibly Deported [Slovenska asociacia nasilne odvlecenych] (SANO), which associates citizens who had been forcibly deported to the USSR by NKVD [the predecessor of the KGB] units, was founded at the organization's first all-Slovak congress in Bratislava on Saturday [15 December]. The congress was held on the premises of the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH]. SANO associates these NKVD victims and surviving family members regardless of their political affiliation, world view, and religious belief. Its main objectives include mutual assistance, defense of rights, and, last but not least, the rehabilitation and indemnification of residents of Slovakia who had been unlawfully deported to the USSR during or after World War II to perform forced labor there.

The congress was attended by CSFR Deputy Prime Minister Jozef Miklosko and Jan Carnogursky, first deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic and chairman of the KDH, who said, among other things: "Today's meeting is for me a proof that justice is getting its way after all in our country, after 40 years. For 40 years we only knew that people used to be unlawfully deported from here to the West. Now we learn, bit by bit, that citizens used to be deported from here to the East as well. We are also learning that many of them have not returned."

Minister Says No Immediate Danger at Bohunice

AU2012123990 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 17 Dec 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Josef Vavrousek, CSFR minister-chairman of the Federal Committee for the Environment, by Lubo Rabay; place and date not given: "No Reason To Panic"—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] There was an accident at the first Czechoslovak nuclear power plant in Jaslovske Bohunice A-1 in 1977. At that time, it was condemned as a failed experiment and just about forgotten. It was not "acceptable" to recall this failure. Nonetheless, nuclear waste is still stored there (its transport to the USSR is to be completed in 1992). The concrete conglomerate contains several centers with different degrees of contamination. The situation really must be dealt with in a more decisive manner. Minister Josef Vavrousek, chairman of the Federal Committee for the Environment, does not believe, however, that the plant is a Slovak Chernobyl. He visited the Jaslovske Bohunice power plant complex on Saturday (and even expressed doubts that the aftermath of Chernobyl really is such as it is depicted). On that occasion, we asked him several questions.

[Rabay] Recently, preliminary data appeared in the press from a study of the surroundings of the A-1 power plant—demonstrating a high content of plutonium and americium in the sediment of the nearby River Dudvah, which is connected with the power plant complex by a canal. Although the readings do not exceed the international limits, the quantity is approximately 20 times higher than the ordinary presence in nature....

[Vavrousek] Really, no threat of immediate danger exists. We do not want to paint the situation black but we cannot make it rosy either. It is our duty to check the facts and find a solution. Already on Thursday [13 December], after the defense of the research study on the elimination of the A-1 bloc, we reached a consensus with the Czechoslovak Atomic Commission chairman on forming a task group. It should analyze the situation and propose measures. I considered it my duty to get acquainted with the situation directly on the spot. I also asked the management of the power plant and the district health officer to participate in the work of the task group and ensure a proper exchange of information and rapid proceeding. The centers of contamination will be marked in order to make even strangers to the area aware that he is not to frequent that area.

[Rabay] In the discussion with the management, you promised assistance by the Federal Commission; for instance, the possibility of arranging through the European Community the technical basis for the elimination of the A-1 plant. You have also promised to "push" for a decision on building a sewage treatment plant, needed here for a long time....

[Vavrousek] A sewage treatment plant is absolutely essential, not only because of the elimination of the A-1 power plant but also for the continuing operation of the plants V-1 and V-2. I hope that this topical information regarding the actual danger will speed up the decision on funding. After all it really is a matter of money.

[Rabay] Last Wednesday [12 December] a group of Austrian experts completed its investigations of the V-1 plant at the request of their government. Already on Thursday, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky asserted, on the basis

of the preliminary results, that he would try to effect an immediate halt of the power plant's operation. What do you think of that?

[Vavrousek] We know of the V-1 power plant that it lies in the estuary of a seismic field. The project truly does not correspond to present-day knowledge and safety criteria. I am convinced, however—and so far the Austrian side has not submitted any new facts to demonstrate the contrary—that the actual danger presented by this power plant does not exceed the limits of an acceptable risk posed by any nuclear power plant as such. We, too, are waiting for the promised report of more than 700 pages prepared by the Austrian experts. I am afraid, however, that the report is not very reliable, and that neither the Austrian media nor the authorities will support this radical demand with sufficient documentation. We are in the process of completing a detailed report summarizing the results of all former expert studies concerning this plant. It will be submitted to the Slovak Government and to the Czech and Slovak Federal Government for the final decision at the beginning of January. One can say already now that, still for a certain, relatively short period of time, the power plant will be able to operate without an increased risk. There is no way, however, that it would reach its projected lifetime of 25 to 30 years.

[Rabay] Recently, at the time of the power-sharing controversies, Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar included you together with three other representatives of the Federal Government on his "black list." You were surprised by your "membership"....

[Vavrousek] I, too, believe that it was unfair. I feel responsible for the environment in the entire CSFR, not only in Prague, where I was born, or in Bohemia, because I speak Czech. Everything I do is thoroughly consulted with colleagues in Slovakia—not only with my Slovak counterpart but also with colleague members of ecological movements. In addition, all the time, for five years now, I have been a member of the Slovak Association of the Protectors of Nature and the Countryside. We opposed the Gabcikovo project together, I had the honor to be the only Czech participating in the publication Bratislava—Aloud. Hence, for my part, it is not simply a case of doing something fashionable.

[Rabay] Is it not so that Vladimir Meciar holds an opposing stand to you on the Gabcikovo project?

[Vavrousek] Apparently, that is what he had in mind—despite the fact that my stance on the project has not changed substantially over the past three years. I am still convinced, however, that the original project was a very unfortunate one. The official standpoint of the Hungarian Government demanding halt of all work is equally unfortunate. These are two extremes, neither of which is acceptable economically or ecologically. An acceptable variant must be sought—the least evil. Still, the only reasonable one would have been never to have started.

[Rabay] What, in your perception, should be the difference between the powers of the federal and of the national minister for the environment?

[Vavrousek] The difference is fundamental and obvious. The Federal Committee for the Environment should be involved only in tasks, the duplication of which would not be expedient. The principal ecological legislation should be within its authority. It is supranational: For instance, in the European Community, such legislation is common for 12 countries. Moreover, it should deal with nuclear energy, the general ecological policy of the state, information systems, and international relations in the area of the environment. However, even in these areas we closely cooperate with the national ministries, to whom we do not want to be a superior body but a kind of a coordinating service.

* * *

Minister Vavrousek is a relatively frequent guest in Slovakia. This Saturday [15 December] he and his ecology movement colleagues met at what was already the 15th forum of creators and protectors of the environment in Bratislava. He survived without injury, despite the high degree of criticism aimed at the governments. "The dogs bark but the caravan goes on," commented Mikulas Huba, Slovak Association of Protectors of Nature and the Countryside chairman, having the environmentalists in mind when referring to the dogs. The question of environmental legislation being delayed behind the economic legislation was presented particularly strongly at the forum. After all, presented like this, it would become just a formal appendix. The government proposals for next year's budgets were also a cause for complaints because the Gabcikovo project and Bratislava rapid transit system dominate the list of ecological construction projects. There is no need to add that they will consume most of the funds assigned to ecology. Thus the departments of transport and energy can be happy....

Energy Director Sees No Reason To Close Bohunice

AU2012152190 Prague CTK in English 1331 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Bratislava Dec 18 (CTK)—Director of the "Slovak energy enterprise" Rudolf Kvetan has told CTK that the results of inspections carried out at the Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia V-1 nuclear power plant do not prompt its immediate closure but its safety must be raised.

The plant's immediate shut-down was urged by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky last week on the basis of a preliminary study on its safety made by a group of 30 experts from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Kvetan said that he has at hand final as well as partial results of inspections by experts, e.g., from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the German firm Siemens. A report is expected soon from a group of Czechoslovak experts who will recommend further steps to be taken by the Federal Government.

The measures proposed by Siemens are economically advantageous and feasible. The firm does not at all propose closure of the Soviet-type plant, the oldest in Czechoslovakia, put into operation in the 1970's, Kvetan said.

According to the top U.S. firm Westinghouse, power plants of this type can be operated until the end of their service life which is in the year 2005 in the case of the V-1 plant, but at the cost of extensive and highly cost-intensive adjustments, Rudolf Kvetan said.

He added that other firms will be asked to inspect the V-1 plant so that it be constantly monitored. It will work until its further operation is challenged.

Though Kvetan admitted that the shut-down of the V-1 plant would complicate Czechoslovakia's energy supply, he ruled out the possibility that the future of the plant could be influenced by the situation in energy supplies. Safety will be the only criterion, Kvetan added.

FRG Company Proposes U.S. Currency Investments

AU1912183290 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 15 Dec 90 p 2

["(PP)"-signed report: "Local Foreign Currency to America?"]

[Text] Prague (From our own reporter)—The Czechoslovak branch of Euro Finanz, a company from the FRG, wants to mediate in sending to the United States foreign currency resources belonging to our citizens. This company wants to make it possible for holders of foreign currency accounts to invest their foreign currency in the United States. Our savers' money would be used to speculate on foreign currency markets and to purchase futures. These operations are extremely risky; however, they can yield a high profit.

In reply to an objection that we need to keep our foreign currency in the CSFR and not export it to the United States, a representative of the company said at a news conference on Friday [14 December] that he envisages that the profit on this enterprise will return to Czechoslovakia.

Following the news conference, we asked the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank—which, to date, is the only bank permitted to carry out foreign currency transactions—for its point of view. We found out that such activity would be in absolute contradiction to the CSFR's economic interests.

CHISSO, Slovnaft To Build Gasoline Installation

AU2012081790 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Dec 90 p 1

[S. Tomanek report: "In Eighteen Months"]

[Text] Bratislava—In cooperation with the Japanese firm CHISSO, Slovnaft will build before March 1992 an installation for the production of lead-free gasoline with the capacity of 250,000 tonnes per year. As told by Engineer Michal Haviar, project manager, all of the Slovnaft light gasoline will be lead-free. Also the Austrian firm OMV Schwechat showed an interest in processing its gasoline here. The total costs will reach 881 million korunas.

20 Percent Surcharge on Imports Introduced

AU2012132390 Prague PRACE in Czech 17 Dec 90 pp 1,2

[Interview with Finance Ministry Department Chief Ladislav Adamec by Blanka Dvorakova; place and date not given: "Finland is an Exception"—first paragraph is PRACE introduction]

[Text] On 3 December, the Federal Government discussed the draft proposal on the introduction of a 20-percent surcharge on imports. The Federal Ministry of Finance worked out the relevant regulations, which we are now discussing with Engineer Ladislav Adamec, candidate of sciences, department chief at the Federal Ministry of Finance.

[Dvorakova] When will this regulation come into force?

[Adamec] As of 17 December. I would like to stress that the validity of this regulation is limited in time. The regulation states that its validity will expire at the end of 1991, yet it is anticipated that, if the situation stabilizes, the CSFR Minister of Finance will declare this financial instrument null and void sooner than that.

[Dvorakova] You are talking about an instrument. What is it supposed to do?

[Adamec] This regulation is one of the provisions that are expected to ensure the convertibility of the koruna. After internal convertibility is introduced and legal persons are allowed to have access to convertible currencies, it could happen that the foreign currency reserves of the state will be in jeopardy. And this is exactly what we want to prevent by imposing a 20-percent surcharge on imports.

[Dvorakova] In what cases will the surcharge be applied?

[Adamec] It will apply to the import of consumer goods and food, yet it will not apply, according to customs law, to noncommercial goods imported by private tourists from abroad. It will not apply to raw materials and goods consumed in the manufacturing process.

[Dvorakova] Can you be more specific?

[Adamec] The items were selected very carefully. We took precautions not to include items in the list that could have a negative impact on the socially weak strata of the population. For instance, we have withdrawn from the list the surcharge on the items of a gluten-free diet. Otherwise, the list comprises imported meat, fish, dairy products, fruit, clothes, yarn, fabric, carpets, shoes, lamps....

[Dvorakova] How is the surcharge calculated?

[Adamec] The basis for the calculation is the value of the goods (customs value). The surcharge will be fixed at 20 percent of this basis.

[Dvorakova] The surcharge is an item that enters into the calculation of prices. Will this mean that retail prices will increase by 20 percent?

[Adamec] The surcharge will not necessarily mean an automatic price increase of 20 percent. It will depend on

trade organizations how they will use the spread that they have, according to tax or mark-up regulations.

[Dvorakova] What types of product, for example, are exempt from the surcharge?

[Adamec] Computers and computer technology.

[Dvorakova] Will the surcharge be applied to goods from all territories?

[Adamec] Yes. The only exception might be deliveries from Finland because we have concluded an agreement with this country that all obstacles in our trade will be removed.

[Dvorakova] When will the surcharge be reflected in retail prices?

[Adamec] We do not anticipate that this will happen before the year end. The liberalization of prices will begin as of 1 January and within this framework it will be possible to project the surcharge into the price of goods.

Poll Shows Popular Support for European Unity

LD1912171390 Prague CTK in English 1627 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 19 (CTK)—Most inhabitants of Czechoslovakia are in favour of the unification process in Europe and support the establishment of closer relations with the European Communities, according to results of an opinion poll, conducted by the commerce research institute in October and November.

Similar surveys were carried out in Hungary and Poland.

Altogether 79 per cent of people questioned in Czechoslovakia, 81 per cent in Hungary and 68 per cent in Poland would favour the forming of the united states of Europe and the incorporation of their country into this entity. Respondents in Czechoslovakia were more sober in assessing the prospects for joining the EC than those in Hungary and Poland. While in Czechoslovakia 25 per cent of the respondents wanted their country to join the EC "now" in Hungary and Poland 50 per cent of the respondents wanted their country to become full members of the European Community now.

International Human Rights Obligations Accepted

LD1912171690 Prague CTK in English 1429 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 19 (CTK)—The deputies of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly unanimously agreed today that Czechoslovakia will accede to the 1976 optional protocol to the United Nations international covenant on civil and political rights.

Czechoslovak Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier, who introduced the protocol to the Federal Assembly, described the optional protocol as an international instrument for the support of civil and political rights. He added that the protocol's effectiveness explains the previous regime's refusal to recognize it.

As a result of parliament's decision, Czechoslovakia recognizes the authority of the Human Rights Committee to receive and give hearings to complaints by one state-signatory that another is violating its obligations according to the covenant and the protocol.

Though decisions of the committee are nonbinding their political and moral force is indisputable, said Dienstbier in support of the protocol.

Klaus' Program for OF's Future Challenged

AU2012115690 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Dec 90 pp 1,2

[Interview with Jiri Dienstbier, CSFR deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by Vladimir Divis; in Olomouc, date not given: "We Cannot Narrow Down the Mandate; Jiri Dienstbier Favors a Broad Civic Forum [OF] Coalition"—opening paragraph is RUDE PRAVO introduction]

[Text] At the Olomouc meeting of Civic Forum [OF] functionaries held a few days ago, Jiri Dienstbier, CSFR deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, presented a platform which was subsequently endorsed by some ministers and parliamentary deputies for the OF. Several days later many of them became founding members of the OF Liberal Club. At the meeting in Olomouc, Jiri Dienstbier replied to RUDE PRAVO's questions related to this development.

[Divis] What is your opinion on the spectrum of views represented by OF district representatives?

[Dienstbier] The debate was interesting, many divergent views were voiced. I believe that this is good in view of the approaching OF Assembly, which is to be held in January. All these divergent views should now be discussed in the OF as a whole. A great deal depends on how we will succeed in resolving the questions of internal democracy within the OF.

[Divis] Are there any fundamental disagreements within the OF as regards the decision on whether to remain a movement or become a party?

[Dienstbier] It seems to me that essentially there exists unanimity on the issue of the OF's future organizational form. The absolute majority [of OF delegates to the Olomouc meeting] endorsed the founding of a party and absolutely fundamental economic reforms. The question now is how to achieve democracy, how to arrive at unity so that the reform can be implemented as successfully as possible.

[Divis] You spoke in Olomouc almost immediately after [OF Chairman] V. Klaus and your contribution was quite different from his. Do you think that it was also because of you that the debate was far more conflicting and controversial than at the last OF Assembly?

[Dienstbier] In my opinion everyone who takes the floor does so with the aim of influencing those present and, thereby, the further course of the debate. It is not for me to

judge whether I succeeded in it or not. A great many people came to Olomouc whose views are similar or close to mine.

[Divis] Will the concept of a political party with a single clearly defined current prevail at the OF Assembly?

[Dienstbier] I believe that this concept cannot be victorious because every movement has its legitimacy which it cannot shed without depriving itself of its supporters. Furthermore, there exists a certain electoral program [to which the OF is committed]. And, what is more, our voters sent the OF's present deputies to parliament on the basis of their not being affiliated to any party. The people who came together in the forum have proved that they are capable of cooperating on specific issues irrespective of all kinds of ideological, political, religious, and other differences. We cannot simply get rid of all that.

[Divis] Your position is close to the view of Professor Svitak, who argues that by narrowing down its political base the OF will forfeit the mandate to implement Klaus' variant of the economic reform.

[Dienstbier] Unfortunately, I did not have the chance to familiarize myself with this opinion of Svitak thoroughly. I know, however, that this attitude is shared by many people and that we cannot willfully narrow down that mandate.

OF Official Queried on Future Political Party

AU1912151390 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 14 Dec 90 p 2

[Interview with Petr Uhl, chairman of the Civic Forum [OF] Left Alternative, by Vladimir Divis; in Olomouc on 9 December: "Only One Percent?"—first paragraph is RUDE PRAVO introduction]

[Text] Shortly after the conclusion of the working session involving Civic Forum [OF] managers in Olomouc, Engineer Petr Uhl, chairman of the OF Left Alternative and a Federal Assembly deputy, replied to RUDE PRAVO questions.

[Divis] What is your view of the proposed measures for individual membership in the future OF political party, measures which make it practically impossible for your members to join this party?

[Uhl] The OF assembly in January will be vital. If we adopt a program based on the already approved right-wing principles, then we ourselves will assume that we have no place in the OF and we will leave it. It will not be necessary to expel us.

[Divis] Earlier you declared that a new party headed by V. Klaus will not have the right to adopt the name OF....

[Uhl] It is not the Left Alternative, but the rest of the OF that is changing. We are still in our original position.

[Divis] In contrast to many representatives of the district forums, the overwhelming majority of deputies and government members in the Presidium do not—so to speak—applaud Klaus. Do you think that most of them are supporters of a center policy which the OF chairman has condemned in rather indiscriminate words.

[Uhl] Yes, you are probably right.

[Divis] Does this Olomouc meeting signify the departure of the Left Alternative and Obroda from the OF?

[Uhl] Why? If the OF remains a platform with an extensive freedom of views—of the kind which prevailed earlier—in the economic and political spheres on the basis of its gradual detachment from the state and the expansion of its democratic conditions, it will not be necessary to leave the OF.

[Divis] What do you say to Mr. Klaus' belief that his party will soon become a mass party with several hundred thousand members?

[Uhl] This is a far too optimistic assumption. I personally estimate this number will be one percent of the number who voted for the OF this June; this has been confirmed by the very little success achieved—so far—in attempting to register OF supporters.

[Divis] Thank you for the interview.

OF Liberal Club: 'Haven' for Ex-Communists

AU2012124590 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Dec 90 p 3

[Jan Fuele commentary: "Right-Left Center; Where is Civic Forum (OF) Heading?"]

[Text] It seems that civic movements in Czechoslovakia, the prospects of which were being described as great not so long ago, are falling apart. Vaclav Klaus became Civic Forum [OF] chairman, which was not as unexpected as many people now assume. He combined his efforts at the implementation of the economic reform with his political ambitions, for which he had been preparing his present and future voters outside Prague for a long time.

Now that he has taken up his new post he strives to give the movement which he leads a new profile. He regards the OF's broad spectrum as obsolete and is trying to push through the model of a right-wing party. He has prepared for this his voters in the countryside yet in Prague it is not that easy for him. A few days ago the Liberal Club was established on the OF's platform, which is trying to be a counterweight to the growing strength of the right wing. According to Vaclav Klaus, the statement of the Liberal Club which has been published says "almost nothing." It is very easy to challenge Vaclav Klaus on this point. Regardless of what the statement may or may not say, it has one clear message—that the OF's shift to the right is not supported by everyone. The founders of the Liberal Club apparently try to save the idea of a broad-based civic movement. The club's statement, "which says almost nothing," was signed by almost 100 Federal Assembly and Czech National Council deputies and most ministers of the Federal Government [delegated by the OF]. To be precise, all of them with two exceptions—Vaclav Klaus and Vladimir Dlouhy.

The fact is that, no matter how paradoxical this may sound, both OF clubs have their justification in the present political spectrum. It is very popular in Czech circles these days to speak about the growing wave of Slovak nationalism. The steadily growing strength of Czech anticommunism is spoken of much less often. The Liberal Club is, first and foremost, a haven for reform communists of more than 20 years ago. It is natural that they dislike purely right-wing tendencies. Apart from this, they can rely on the fact that not everyone who gave his vote to the OF in the June parliamentary elections reckoned with its future distinctly right-wing orientation. Czech voters will surely ponder whether to follow Vaclav Klaus on the one hand or Petr Uhl, Rudolf Battek, or Zdenek Jicinsky on the other. This question may not seem to be so topical now but we will start to feel its urgency at the beginning of next year. And let us add that Vaclav Klaus will start to feel it together with us.

Establishment of Liberal Club Viewed

AU2012120290 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 17 Dec 90 p 2

[Karel Hvizdala commentary: "Men of Europe!"]

[Text] The last few days have been highlighted by bitter and concentrated attacks on the invocation of a market economy which—according to its opponents—threatens a vital nerve in the Czech body: culture. Concentrated fire has also been aimed at Vaclav Klaus, the main protagonist of this economic model and chairman of the Civic Forum [OF]. The chairman's endeavors to transform this open political movement into a firmly structured political unit—which on the political scale would be situated somewhere to the right of center—has met with a considerable response from district OFs and has brought Vaclav Klaus to the forefront. Last week in Olomouc the chairman said that he is opposed to "policies of the center" which are "discombobulating, false, and empty mathematical formulae."

However, some politicians are not satisfied with this change in the political map of Bohemia and Moravia. Therefore, on Thursday [13 December] they founded the OF Liberal Club. Its members include P. Pithart, P. Rychetsky, V. Vales, D. Buresova, J. Dienstbier, L. Dobrovsky, P. Miller, V. Stepova, M. Palous, Tomas Sokol, Milos Zeman, and Jiri Ruml. Vaclav Klaus found out about the establishment of this group on Thursday evening on "Czechoslovak Television Journal."

Jan Sokol, chairman of the OF deputies' club, said during Friday's [14 December] OF news conference that "it is essential to maintain unity at least until the next parliamentary elections in 1992." Petr Kucera announced soon afterwards that in the very near future a third group will make itself known to the public. It is possible to assume—without overtaxing the imagination—that the agile Petr Uhl will be behind this group.

Obviously, Klaus has strong support in the districts. The liberals will be more dependent upon certain sectors in towns and upon the so-called sixty eighters who are still seeking some kind of third way. The Left-Wing Club will probably not be too strong.

These three streams also represent three different approaches toward transforming our economy into a market economy. Klaus favors the most accelerated variant without exception, the Liberals favor a socially inclined market economy, and the Left-Wing Club looks toward the Swedish method.

At first glance this involves normal political separation into liberal and conservative parties and citizens would be pleased about it, of course, if they did not know that this political denouement is taking place on the eve of the commencement of economic changes.

It is possible to read the establishment of the Liberal Club as a protest not only against Vaclav Klaus and his more right-wing inclined conservatism, but also—first and foremost—as an attack on his method for our conversion to a market economy. As a citizen I feel vulnerable here. In other words, I do not have to be in favor of Klaus, but I have to be in favor of a single model for our conversion to a market economy, a model which should not change every month.

"Listen well, men of Europe," wrote Georges Bernanos in 1941. "The state provides insurance against risk. If you want to be insured against a legitimate and unavoidable risk—against a risk which no man can refuse without dishonor—change the title of citizen to the title of sustained beggar."

Pithart Meets Coal Miners, Hears Protests

AU1912150190 Prague PRACE in Czech 14 Dec 90 pp 1,2

["(ae)"-signed report: "Will There Be Coal for Dollars?; A Czech Republic Government Delegation Led by P. Pithart in the 'Lion's Den' of the Ostrava Region"]

[Excerpts] Ostrava— "After the approval of the reprivatization law [as published], it will be the Czech Government which will bear full responsibility for the Ostrava region. It will be a wagon brimful with responsibility and problems." This is how Czech Republic Prime Minister Petr Pithart introduced his dialogue with trade union representatives of the Ostrava-Karvina coal basin yesterday. [passage omitted]

The government delegation is in North Moravia to study the present and, in particular, future problems connected with the restructuring of industry and the anticipated closure of coal mines. The trade union representatives of the Ostrava-Karvina coal basin were mainly concerned about the availability of jobs. The most burning current problem concerns 12,500 miners who will leave the coal mines in the first quarter of next year because they have exceeded the so-called period of exposure [limiting the number of years, for health reasons, which a miner may work underground]. [passage omitted] The trade unions are trying to find jobs for the released miners but mostly

run up against the resistance of enterprises which refuse to hire sick people. [passage omitted]

Several speakers demanded subsidies—for mining enterprises as well as for enterprises employing former miners. The lack of a clear state fuel-power concept ran like a scarlet thread through the meeting's fabric. Government and nongovernment representatives keep talking about the need to limit bituminous coal mining but the specific concept for the future of the Ostrava-Karvina coal basin is still shrouded in mystery.

"It is not the government which seeks to limit coal mining," Karel Dyba, minister for economic policy and development, said. "It is our entire unhealthy economy. Production and the volume of investments are both falling. For 40 years one has been artificially sustaining in the Ostrava region what had been built here in the fifties, including dependence on the Soviet market which is now falling apart. We are experiencing what essentially amounts to an economic crisis and the Ostrava region, too, is affected by it. The government proceeds from the harsh economic reality. There is no alternative and there is not going to be any alternative [to the closure of mines]. Coal mining will never again be a boom industry."

The minister's speech was interrupted by Mr. Hosek, chairman of the Federal Trade Union of Mining, Geology, and Oil Field Workers: "I disagree with this view in principle." Other protests, accompanied by applause, followed suit. The trade union leaders emphasized once again the absence of a concept, owing to which we are now buying coal in Poland for hard currency. One speaker expressed the opinion that "the state treats mining as though it were a circus." What caused the trade union leaders' discontent was, among other things, the minister's comparison of our program of mine closures with that carried out by the British Government a few years ago. According to the trade union leaders, the minister failed to mention that the program on the British Isles was carried out with a strong economy to back it up and, hence, without any major social upheavals which now threaten the Ostrava region. "I realize that sparks will be flying between us," Petr Pithart said, among other things. [passage omitted]

In the afternoon the Czech Government delegation met with journalists at a news conference. Asked by PRACE whether the Czech Republic Government intends to comply with the trade union leaders' demands regarding coal mining subsidies and retraining, Prime Minister Pithart replied: "We have not yet made a decision on whether the government will subsidize coal mining. This issue will be discussed by our economic council before the end of the year. The consequences of the possible limitation of coal mining must be tackled by the government together with enterprises, both of which must share responsibility. The government set aside considerable funds for retraining programs in its budget."

Czech Minister Reports 196 New State Enterprises

AU2012152290 Prague CTK in English 1601 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Prague Dec 18 (CTK)—Czech Minister of Trade and Tourism Vlasta Stepova told newsmen here today that the ministry has received 239 applications for founding new state enterprises since the beginning of 1990. 128 of them have been accepted and 53 have been recommended for realization within small privatization.

Addressing a news conference on privatization in trade and tourism, Stepova said that there will be 196 state enterprises by January 1, 1991. The ministry had to counter efforts to establish various firms in order to avoid the principles of small privatization. She stressed that retail trade as well as high-volume warehouses and supermarkets will be subject to small privatization.

As to privatization in tourism, the first step in this respect was the breaking up of the monopoly of big travel agencies. Stepova said that at present some 1,400 new travel agencies exist. But only in 30 percent of them former employees of big travel bureaus work which means that, owing to their experiences and opportunity of cooperating with foreign partners, these travel agencies are predestined to ensure services on a high professional level as early as from the beginning of next year.

Communique From Slovak Government 14 Dec Session

AU2012090290 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Dec 90 p 2

["Excerpt" from the communique issued following the Slovak Government session on 14 December; place not given]

[Text] The government discussed a draft organizational arrangement for the Slovak Interior Ministry security department and for the police force apparatus. It also discussed increasing the number of police officers in Slovakia.

It agreed—with comments—with the draft course of action for handing over property belonging to the former Slovak Youth Union. It also agreed—with amendments—with the wording of a report on a series of solutions to the problems associated with the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros water project prior to the report's submission to the Federal Government.

It agreed with a proposal for the conclusion of an agreement between the Slovak Government and the U.S. State of New Hampshire on cooperation in trade, the economy, consultative activity, science, education, and culture. It also agreed that a group of specialists and entrepreneurs from the Tatra Mountain Corporation should draft an expert study on environmental protection and the development of tourism in the High and Low Tatras in harmony with the generally binding legal regulations valid in the Slovak Republic.

The government agreed—with comments—with the draft statute on a CSFR Government plenipotentiary for refugee issues.

It made note of a report on this year's development of retail prices and on their impact on the population's standard of living. The increase in prices is most of all reflected in a rise in the cost of living for pensioners and for families with several children. Comprehensive social measures are being prepared to deal with the consequences of price increases next year.

The Slovak Government also discussed several other issues.

Meciar Comments on Gabcikovo Project, Refugees

AU2012085790 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Dec 90 pp 1,2

[Report on interview with Slovak Prime Minister Meciar by Klara Grosmannova and Stanislav Tomanek; place and date not given: "All Quiet in Gabcikovo—10 Million Korunas Per Day"]

[Text] Bratislava—In recent weeks it is no longer an exception, but the rule for the Slovak Government to be in session from morning until night. It had 25 items on its agenda yesterday. Government members expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister V. Meciar for his tireless and purposeful assertion of jurisdiction distribution by giving him a round of applause at the beginning of the session.

The government discussed, among other things, the draft Slovak Government decree on relief from property tax, changing the name of the Slovak College of Technology to the Slovak Technical University, a report on dealing with the problems surrounding the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros water project, the refugee problem (the federal draft was not approved), a report on establishing other corporations, and the implementation of the law on judicial rehabilitation (24,000 of the 50,000 cases have been dealt with; some people have already been compensated to the tune of 10 million korunas).

During the regular press briefing, journalists turned to Slovak Prime Minister V. Meciar with several questions:

[NARODNA OBRODA] We have heard that 200,000 Soviet refugees could ruin the Polish economy. We know that we may expect even more of them on our territory. Has the Slovak Government, like other states, considered introducing visa requirements?

[Meciar] I have already conveyed all the republican government's anxieties. The situation which is threatening us has also already been discussed by the Defense Council. It is vital that Prime Minister Calfa should expedite some issues associated with residence in our country; we will deal with some issues within the framework of our jurisdiction. A series of adopted measures should be sufficient for the protection of the economy and order as weil as for controlling movement across our territory. Many West European states have turned to us with a request for assistance in regulating this movement because it is obvious that they will be the refugees' target.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky stated on Thursday [13 December], on the basis of an expert analysis carried out by foreign specialists, that he is in favor of the Jaslovske Bohunice nuclear power plant being shut down as quickly as possible.

[Meciar] Four expert analyses were carried out. One was carried out by the Siemens company; the results have not yet been published. Another one was carried out by a commission from the Nuclear Energy Organization. Expert analyses were also carried out by domestic and foreign specialists. The reports which we already have state that the government can still operate the nuclear plant for some time yet. Not for long; it is estimated that it may be operated for another three to five years. Expert analyses should be repeated in the V-1 blocks every year. If even the slightest danger arises—a threat to people's lives or safety—we will close it down. However, there is no immediate danger at present.

[NARODNA OBRODA] The issue of the completion of Gabcikovo is again coming to the forefront....

[Meciar] The Gabcikovo water project remains a grievance from the past. The year 1990 upset us very much because all relations concerning this project solidified and did not proceed any further. We asked the Hungarian side to provide us with scientific reports justifying the steps they have taken. To this day we still do not have these important documents. Evaluations were made by two organizations. We asked a Canadian organization to ascertain whether we should complete the project, whether we should suspend it, or whether we should merely reduce the ecological risks. Following discussions in the government, we ourselves expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that in August we submitted proposals to the Federal Government which, however, have still not appeared on its agenda. Every day of delay costs us 10 million korunas! Therefore, we approved new material which we will again submit to the Federal Government. In view of the fact that as of 1 January the project will be financed by Slovak resources, we suggested to the Federal Government that it finance 1990 to the tune of 163 million korunas. This is doubtful. If this does not happen, the Slovak Government will—understandably—take on the debt itself. In view of the fact that finance for this project will come from the Slovak Republic, we propose that the Federal Government authorizes the Slovak prime minister—apart from the Federal Government commissioner—to negotiate with the Hungarian side on reviewing contractual relations and technical conditions for the project's operation.

[NARODNA OBRODA] The Czech Government has already discussed a commercial agreement in connection with the Mlada Boleslav Skoda works. What will happen in connection with the Bratislava Automobile Plants?

[Meciar] We have undertaken not to negotiate with anyone except the General Motors Company until 15 December. This company is demanding conditions that are normal where it comes from; this means that it wants to know who

its partner in the investment process will be. It would be responsible for requalification as well as some other investment projects in precisely specified sums and proportions. Of course, after a certain period, these sums will be returned to the republic in the form of income from levies. We are negotiating about the amount of these investments; so far, the negotiations have not been completed. There are signs that the point of view of the Volkswagen company could change and there are also offers from other automobile companies. However, we will remain true to our undertaking: Until we complete our negotiations with GM, we will not negotiate with anyone else.

[NARODNA OBRODA] When will things become clearer?

[Meciar] Within a week.

At the afternoon press briefing held during the Slovak Government session, Minister L. Pittner outlined the future arrangement for his ministry's security department and the police apparatus. It is envisaged that regional administrations and their commanders will be abolished; this will simplify management.

Jozef Dubnicek, Slovak minister for construction and the building industry, commented that those waiting for apartments must themselves demonstrate more initiative in the new year. Instead of the 6 billion korunas it asked for, the department will only receive 3 billion korunas. He recommended that citizens be given substantial credit which they could pay off in 20 to 30 years. Apropos the prices of apartments, he stated that—in harmony with the overall price increases—they will increase by approximately 30 percent.

Slovak International Relations MInister Milan Knazko emphasized—in connection with his participation in a session of the European Regions Council—that Slovakia was represented for the first time in this important forum.

M. Knazko also informed journalists that in Strasbourg on 6 December—in the presence of representatives from 165 regions—the Slovak Republic was accepted as a rank and file member of the Association of European Regions.

Slovak Statistics on Living Costs, Real Earnings

AU1912150990 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 14 Dec 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Hidden Ailments Are Bursting Into the Open"]

[Text] Production output, labor productivity, and employment in industry and the building sector all declined in Slovakia in the first 11 months of this year, compared with the same period last year. Another typical feature of the past 11 months is the increase in the number of registered job seekers and a growing number of the unemployed.

According to an analysis carried out by the Slovak Statistical Office, gross industrial output in the centrally administered industry declined 3.5 percent in the past 11 months, which represents a reduction of output by 8.7 billion korunas. The decline has been caused chiefly by continuing problems concerning the conversion of the armaments industry. Production output has, however, declined also in enterprises of the garment industry, leather working industry, building materials industry, wood- processing industry, paper and pulp industry, food industry, gas industry, ore mining and ore processing, and ferrous metallurgy.

Basic building industry output reached only 89.2 percent of the level of the equivalent period of 1989. Overall development in this branch was affected primarily by enterprises administered by the Ministry of Construction and the Building Industry of the Slovak Republic, which reached in the first 11 months of this year only 89.3 percent of the production level of last year's equivalent period.

As yesterday's news conference revealed further, a total of 155,504 persons were seeking a job in the Slovak Republic at the end of November, according to the records of labor exchanges. The largest number of job seekers, 47,877, was in East Slovakia. Interesting facts were provided in this context by Slovak Statistical Office Chairman Rudolf Krc, . As he mentioned, the rate of unemployment in Slovakia was 1.3 percent at the end of November, compared with 0.7 percent in the Czech Republic. He also briefed journalists on the estimated growth of the cost of living index and the development of real earnings. According to estimates of the Slovak Statistical Office, the cost of living index increased 34.5 percent since the year 1980. Real earnings have declined 6.5 percent over this 10-year period. When we compare this year's fourth quarter of the year with last year's fourth quarter alone, however, the drop in real earnings amounts to 13 percent. This bears out, Rudolf Krc said, that formerly hidden ailments have burst into the open in this period.

Shevardnadze's Resignation Prompts Reactions

Antall Expresses Regret

LD2112115290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Gabor Bankuti report on 21 December; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The news has just come in that Jozsef Antall received this morning the leaders of the parliamentary parties and the representatives of their parliamentary groups this morning; the possibility of maintaining regular contact was discussed.

[Bankuti] After the discussion, he spoke to journalists about Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's resgnation. The Hungarian prime minister said that he greatly regretted that Shevardnadze resigned. They met several times; he considers him a politican of great stature, who gave a new look to world politics, after predcessors such as Molotov and Gromyko. Jozsef Antall trusts that Shevardnadze will still be given a place in Soviet political life and that he will not leave. He mentioned, at the same time, that the situation of the Central-Eastern European region is such that it should arouse increased responsibility in everyone. For this reason, this resignation is a signal.

Foreign Ministry Comments

LD2012200190 Budapest MTI in English 1901 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Budapest, December 20 (MTI)—"Shevardnadze was the person in the Soviet Union who consistently supported Gorbachev, and the perestroyka highlighted with the name of Gorbachev. His resignation can definitely be connected with the transformation within the Soviet Union and the criticial situation," said Imre Szokai, secretary of state of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, in an interview with Hungarian Television's evening news on Thursday.

In answer to whether Hungarian-Soviet foreign relations would possibly suffer a break in the wake of this, Mr Szokai said:

"I am almost certain this will not happen, as the Soviet foreign policy, also represented by Shevardnadze, is a very realistic, pragmatic foreign policy, which has achieved very good results. I believe this approach will continue to characterize Soviet foreign policy. I do not at all expect a decline in Hungarian-Soviet relations."

Budapest TV Editor Gives Views

LD2012195390 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The note of our foreign affairs editor examines Shevardnadze's resignation in the light of Soviet internal developments:

The Georgians are emotional people; however, it is not probable that the level-headed diplomat would have been carried away at such a forum. Neither is it plausible that Shevardnadze as a politician would try to blackmail or put pressure on the people's deputies this way. According to the signs in Moscow, the fight of the conservative forces and reformers has reached a critical point. The struggle became public between those who see the token of order in dictatorship and those who, despite the chaos, want to continue the democratization processes.

The one-time KGB chief and Georgian party secretary unequivocally belongs to the latter camp. This is why the politician was talked about as the future head of government or deputy prime minister, which, of course, is still possible. The political career of Shevardnadze does not necessarily end with the announcement of his resignation, on the contrary, he remains foreign minister until the Supreme Soviet relieves him. At the moment, however, the exciting question is not only who discarded the glove and why, but who will pick it up.

Problems Noted in Trade With Soviet Union

LD2012173390 Budapest MTI in English 1219 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Budapest, December 20, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The president of the National Bank of Hungary [NBH] Mr Gyorgy Suranyi, has advised Hungarian exporters to only make deliveries to the Soviet Union against a letter of credit, guaranteed by the Soviet Foreign Bank. In the case of barter deals they should start delivering goods only when already in possession of the imported countervalue, the Thursday edition of the Budapest economic daily "VILAGGAZDASAG" reported.

Mr Suranyi was in Moscow earlier this week for talks on the future of the Comecon banks and the dollarization of trade between the East European countries. While there, he reached an agreement with the president of Gosbank, the Soviet central bank, that the two countries will settle clearing dollar bills every two or three months next year.

Bela Teremi, a senior NBH official, told "VILAGGAZDASAG" that Hungarian exporters may export goods to the Soviet Union against roubles until March 31, 1991. The cash-on-delivery form of payment will also be applied until that date, but only in the case of deliveries carried forward from 1990. All new trade agreements will be made in hard currency.

No agreement has yet been reached with the Soviet Union about the scheduling of the payment of the Soviet debt of 1.2 billion roubles to Hungary. The Soviet Union wants to spread the payment over five years, but Hungary insists that they pay the surplus accumulated up to 1990, in 1991, and the amount outstanding in 1990, in 1992. The NBH official said that the two sides have, however, agreed that the surplus can be put down against Hungarian credits, or can be paid in goods.

The Moscow correspondent of "VILIGGAZDASAG" reports that the Soviet Foreign Economic Bank has not yet been instructed to block rouble accounts. This means that the settlement of trade bills will probably continue in

roubles in the first quarter of 1991, because it will apparently take the Soviet banks some time to switch completely over to hard currency accounting.

Future Energy Import Possibilities Considered

LD2012162190 Budapest MTI in English 1114 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Budapest, December 20, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Hungary has now started eliminating its dependence on Soviet energy supplies. Currently, Hungary's only other energy supply line is the Adria pipeline through Yugoslavia, through which 1.5 million tonnes of oil has flowed to Hungary this year.

By 1992, Hungary will have completed the construction of a 100-kilometre pipeline between Gyor in western Hungary and Baumgarten in Austria which will enable Hungary to link up to gas supplies coming from Algeria. An annual 2-2.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas will come through this pipeline, enough for the western Hungarian region. The project will cost approximately $45 million and be funded by a World Bank loan.

A protocol on Hungary's joining the north-south gas pipeline was signed recently at the Rome session of the Pentagonale countries by the Hungarian deputy state secretary in charge of energy.

In the second phase, a direct supply line will be constructed by 1995 to connect Algeria to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which could carry 4 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually to Hungary.

Currently, the only external source of natural gas for Hungary is the Soviet Union, which supplied 6.2 billion cubic metres this year. Deliveries next year will amount to 5.2 billion cubic metres, although Hungary would have preferred 6 billion cubic metres. After 1992, Hungary will need more imported gas as part of a scheme to increase the number of homes connected to the national gas network. By the year 2000, Hungary's gas import requirement will grow to an annual 10 billion cubic metres, and the Soviet Union is not likely to be able to meet this level of demand.

Hungary is at present totally dependent on the Soviet Union for its imports of electricity. Eleven billion [kwh] of Hungary's annual consumption of 40 billion kwh of electricity comes from the Soviet Union. There have been a number of hitches in Soviet electricity supplies this year, which caused problems for industrial consumers in Hungary.

To ensure a reliable supply of electricity, Hungary wishes to link up to the western European electricity grid. At the Rome session, Italy declared its willingness to support the Hungarian request. Though the link-up would require an investment of $2 billion, Italy would undertake to cover investment costs under the Italia-2000 programme in return for the delivery by Hungary of an annual 2 million kwh of electricity.

Talks Held With Poland on Economic Issues

LD1912190990 Budapest MTI in English 1702 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Budapest, December 19 (MTI)—Bela Kadar, minister of international economic relations, held talks with Minister Jerzy Osiatynski, head of the Polish central planning office, in Budapest on Wednesday.

The two countries will switch from rouble-to dollar-accounting as of January 1.

The ministers stated that the system of bilateral economic co-operation has to be re-organized, because the earlier agreements will expire on the one hand, and only some of their elements can be built into a new system, on the other hand. It is important for the two countries to conclude a new inter-governmental agreement on the development of economic, technical and scientific co-operation as soon as possible.

The ministers discussed how the two countries could co-operate in sub-regional, regional and all-European matters. The negotiating parties declared support for the establishment of an East-Central European co-operation system. The Hungarian Government will promote Poland's acceptance as a fully-fledged member of the Pentagonale within the foreseeable future.

President Goncz Appoints New Ministers

LD2012185490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] At the proposal of the prime minister, the president of the republic has appointed ministers. Mihaly Kupa has become leader of the finance portfolio; Katalin Botos, political state secretary of the Finance Ministry up to now, and Erno Pongor, an academic, have been appointed ministers without portfolio. Jeno Laszlo has become administrative state secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

At the same time, the head of state relieved of their posts Ferenc Rabar, finance minister up to now, and Gyorgy Matolcsy, political state secretary of the prime minister's office, at their own request.

Democratic Forum Elects New Leaders 20 Dec

LD2012162390 Budapest MTI in English 1434 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Budapest, December 20 (MTI)—On Thursday the presidium of the Hungarian Democratic Forum elected a seven-strong executive body to handle daily tasks under the guidance of acting vice president Balazs Horvath, former minister of the interior.

Imre Furmann became general vice president, and Gabriella Farkas, Denes Csengey and Tamas Szabo vice presidents for a term of two years. The two other members of the presidium, now Istvan Csurka and Ivan Szabo, will be re-elected every six months.

Speaking to journalists, Balazs Horvath mentioned in first place the re-organization of the party's Budapest centre with new rules of operation to be be drafted in the first week of January, and greater importance given to the local branches.

Shevardnadze Said 'Target' of Military Attacks

LD2012145690 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1420 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Jan Gadomski commentary]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has for a long time been the target of attacks by the Soviet military. His foreign policy, free of ideological motivations and foregoing the military power as a means of pressure cannot be to the liking of people who wear the Soviet Army uniform. They consider Shevardnadze as the driving force behind the sell out of the Soviet empire. This is what Marshal Yazov himself said.

But it is not merely the person of Eduard Shevardnadze which is at stake in this (?recently started) game. What is at stake is the power, and the battlefield is behind the scenes where Mikhail Gorbachev is coming under the ever increasing pressure of the Army and the KGB. At the same time he is unable to call on the people who have been driven to despair by the tragic supply situation and the inflation.,

A question remains: Is a blow aimed at Shevardnadze just an attempt to force Gorbachev to change course, which would mean the battle would go on—or was the change forced through already and Shevardnadze sacrificed to the military power and the current stage of internal conflicts in the USSR set in favor of the conservative or reactionary forces? We will discover the answer soon.

Walesa Receives Taiwanese Delegation 20 Dec

LD2012211190 Warsaw PAP in English 1933 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Gdansk, Dec. 20—Polish President-elect Lech Walesa received at his provisional seat in Sopot today a Taiwanese delegation which conveyed to him an invitation to pay an official visit to Taiwan, sent by that country's president, prime minister, foreign affairs and foreign trade ministers, presidents of the Senate and the Congress and general secretary of the ruling party.

Walesa accepted the invitation and he will make efforts to visit Taiwan in the first half of 1991.

Talks with Senator S.L. Chang and Director of the Vienna-based centre for the promotion of Taiwanese trade and industry (also in Poland) Chia Hsien-Lee focused on trade, investment and political contacts between Poland and Taiwan.

Walesa proposed to set up at the presidential office a committee for the development of contacts between the two countries. He appointed Andrzej Kozakiewicz to represent the Polish side on it while the Taiwanese side will be represented by Chia Hsien-Lee.

Walesa Adviser Micewski Announces Resignation

LD2012192690 Warsaw PAP in English 1709 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 20—Andrzej Micewski conveyed to PAP the following statement:

"On August 3, 1990 I was quite unexpectedly appointed head of a team of advisers to Lech Walesa. Taking justified precautions, I made a public statement then that I did not intend to be a member of a future government or parliament.

"The team I had appointed worked out tens of reports and opinions and I thank them for that. After two months, the team was practically replaced by a programme council of Lech Walesa's campaign staff.

"At the moment when Walesa is becoming Poland's president, I can, without doing anything to harm him, officially state that I am no longer holding the office. I am doing so because many people in Poland and abroad unsuccessfully try to reach Lech Walesa using me as a link."

Walesa Suggests Postponing Parliament Elections

LD2012172290 Warsaw PAP in English 1634 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 20—After many consultations, Lech Walesa suggested two concepts concerning a new government:

The first concept is to appoint a new prime minister and cabinet but to postpone parliamentary elections by, at least, one year so that the new government could score results heeding nation's expectations.

The second suggestion speaks about the keeping of the present government (with indispensable corrections) until the spring elections.

Jan Olszewski on Government Formation 'Fiasco'

LD2012224190 Warsaw PAP in English 2107 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 20—The fact that the first attempt at forming a government ended in a fiasco is normal in a country where democratic mechanisms operate, lawyer Jan Olszewski told PAP.

My concept clashed with the one presented by the president-elect. I had a free hand in choosing government members. I do not hide that I tried to form the cabinet from the point of view of the realization of tasks with which it would be faced in my opinion. I assumed that the basic programmatic issue in the activity of that government would be to make a fundamental breakthrough in the structures of the state apparatus which continue to be composed of nomenklatura members, he added.

Without general restructuring we will not move forward, especially in economic matters. This was clearly manifested in recent months. Analyses made during the work on the programme of the new government confirmed that the delay of changes, even a slight stagnation, simply ensues from the lack of adjustment of structures to this direction of economic transformation which are regarded by us as purposeful, Olszewski went on to say.

I and the president-elect agreed that this is to be a cabinet composed of specialists but also inclined towards some political solutions. The basic difference between us lay in the amount of stress each of us put on continuation and a break-through. In my personal opinion the slogan of the "new beginning" also requires a firm manifestation in the composition of the next government, he stated.

'National Democracy' Party Registered

LD2012192390 Warsaw PAP in English 1737 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 20—The Warsaw Voivodship Court registered here today the National Democracy as a political party.

The party's chief goal is to rebuild a sovereign, civil state of the Polish nation. The party had been formed in August 1990.

Foreign Ministry Views Shevardnadze Resignation

AU2012214990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2128 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—In reply to a request by Mr. Alec Russell, DAILY TELEGRAPH's correspondent in Bucharest, to comment on the Soviet foreign minister's decision to resign, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu said:

"Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation from his position as the Soviet Union's foreign minister was certainly caused by domestic developments in the USSR and from that point of view we have no comments.

As far as Romanian-Soviet relations are concerned, we must mention that on the occasion of their participation in the proceedings of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Adrian Nastase, had a very successful meeting when a very close contact was established, reflecting mutual understanding of the problems facing the two countries. The parties agreed to act jointly so as to ensure further development of the Romanian-Soviet relations at various levels. From that point of view we feel certainly sorry about Mr. Shevardnadze's decision to resign from his position as the Soviet Union's minister of foreign affairs.

We are at the same time convinced that, whatever duties Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze may be assigned, he will continue to support the development of collaboration and good neighbourly relations between Romania and the Soviet Union.

Foreign Ministry Views EEC Aid, Foreign Policy

Comments on Possible Humanitarian Aid

AU2012164690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1605 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—During his weekly press conference, the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, informed that at the recent meeting of the heads of state and government of the EEC member countries there was expressed the availability to support the East European countries' process of reforms by granting aid included. There were accepted the recommendations of the EEC ministers of finance regarding the granting to Romania and Bulgaria of humanitarian aid in foodstuffs worth of 100 million ECU [European Currency Unit] and in power worth of 150 million ECU. At the same time, the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Common Market countries reached a consensus on including Romania into the programme of assistance initiated by the Group of 24 and coordinated by EEC to support East European countries' reforms. The official decision is to be taken during the meeting of the Group of 24 on January 30, 1991. Until then, Mr. Chebeleu specified, the Common Market secretariat in consultation with the Romanian Government will start the drafting of concrete projects of cooperation with Romania. As far as the materialization of the food aid is concerned, there was decided that they comprise for Romania about 150 thousand tonnes of wheat, bakery products, 20 thousand tonnes of sunflower oil, 10 thousand tonnes of sugar, 2 thousand tonnes of powder milk and 15 thousand tonnes of oranges.

Discusses Foreign Policy Issues

AU2012195990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1742 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—As the Foreign Affairs Ministry Spokesman, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, informed during his weekly press conference, the recent talks held in Bucharest with the Sudanese delegation headed by Mr. Mohammad al-Amin Khalifa [spelling as received], member of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution of Sudan, focused on the current stage and prospects of the bilateral economic ties and new collaboration possibilities were found in agriculture, fishery, extracting industry and other fields. Approach was also made of certain possibilities to set up joint ventures in gas extraction, oil drilling, light industry, and others.

Mr. Traian Chebeleu informed about the arrival in Bucharest on December 19 of the Iraqi delegation headed by Mr. Sa'd 'Abd-al Majid al-Faysal, deputy foreign minister, and specified that the talks held on the occasion focused on the gulf situation. Romania's stand on the crisis was reasserted, on the application of the Security Council resolutions included. Romania's concern was expressed over the prospect of a conflict and stress was laid on the necessity to intensify the efforts for a political settlement. Romania's Government considers that a persistent crisis in the gulf, a tension generating factor in an already tensioned area, does not contribute to creating adequate conditions for a constructive approach of the questions in the Middle East.

Referring to the recent Finland visit of Mr. Romulus Neagu, secretary of state, member of the Romanian Government, Mr. Traian Chebeleu underscored that the Finnish side had a favourable attitude towards political dialogue and economic cooperation in the new conditions posed by the economic reforms and the building of the state of law in Romania. Concrete activities were identified concerning the development of the economic exchanges and the Romanian-Finnish cooperation.

Issues Statement on Moldova

AU2012202090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1935 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—This week, during his press conference, the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman made certain specifications on the interview Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase granted to a correspondent of the Hungarian radio which was broadcast by Radio Budapest in Romanian on December 16.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman read the following paragraph of the aforementioned interview "according to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European frontiers could be changed peacefully. Adrian Nastase compared Romania's claims over Socialist Moldova to the union of Germany." But the text put at the journalists' disposal proves that Mr. Adrian Nastase had stated the following: As far as Soviet Moldova is concerned, it is clear that a parallel is intentioned between Moldova and Transylvania. But I must remind you that the Romanians in Moldova are not a minority, they represent the majority of the population and I remind you the elements of a relatively recent history you know: In my opinion, no parallel can be drawn between the Hungarian minority in Romania and the Romanians in Soviet Moldova. On the other hand, the Romanian Government's stand was quite clear: Frontiers should be observed as well as the Helsinki Final Act provisions and we consider that all the questions of that territory are internal questions of Moldova and questions of the Soviet Union in general. On a political level, I do not think that you could find any statement containing other ideas which might imply that the Romanian Government would like to interfere into Soviet Moldova's political issues. What I can tell you is that the Romanian Government has no territorial claims over Soviet Moldova."

The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman also informed that on December 19 Mr. Adrian Nastase presented in front of the Parliament's foreign policy commission the concerns of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and especially an account of the "carte blanche" concerning that ministry's activity in the last six months after the formation of the new government.

RMDSZ Says Romanian Government 'Not Authentic'

LD1912171990 Budapest MTI in English 1612 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Budapest, December 19 (MTI)—According to the Democratic Federation of Hungarians in Romania (DFHR) [Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania—RMDSZ], the current government of Romania does not represent the country's interests in an authentic manner. The organization expressed this view also in the Bucharest Parliament - representatives of the press were informed on Wednesday in Budapest by Barna Bodo, vice president of the DFHR.

A delegation of the federation is in Hungary to exchange experiences with Hungarian trade union leaders.

Mr Bodo said the current Romanian government is legitimate, but is not authentic, its policy does not promote to solve the country's serious economic problems. The interests of the country and the Hungarians in Romania desire that a national unity government be formed, and local government elections be held as soon as possible.

There is significant dissatisfaction in the country, he noted. "On the anniversary of last December's events, thousands of students, workers and intellectuals in Timisoara demanded the resignation of the country's current leaders. However, dissatisfaction is not manifest so powerfully in other cities."

Answering questions by journalists, the vice president said: Although the DFHR secured its place in Parliament, all it has been able to do so far was to defend itself against the everyday attacks made against it. In the future, they wish to more actively participate in politics, notwithstanding attempts to force them into the background.

Lazarescu Appointed Ambassador to Holy See

AU2012163890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1510 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—Dan A. Lazarescu, National Liberal Party member of the Chamber of Deputies, director of newspaper "LIBERALUL," and a member of the Writers' Union, is Romania's first ambassador in 45 years at the Holy See.

I am well known in the Roman high society: My wife Angela Atanasanu, and I are members of the Approdo Romano Association founded by Pope Paul VI for closer contacts with foreign intellectuals, particularly with those surviving in the communist countries, the new ambassador said on his appointment. The Holy See diplomacy is the oldest in Europe, it has a millenary experience, thorough knowledge of the European problems and, through its contacts with the Soviet leadership, played an essential role in the fall of dictatorships, of the totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe.

The ambassadorship at the Holy See is a key post for the new Romanian diplomacy, Dan Lazarescu went on even though I am Orthodox, a great-grand-nephew of Metropolitan Nifon (1856-1875), founder of the Nifon Mitropolitul Seminar, I have always grasped the essential importance of Roman Catholicism in the history of Europe, and of the Greek Catholic Church in the cultural and political history of Romania. After forty-five years of severed diplomatic relations with the Holy See, my task is no doubt going to be tedious. The most pressing problem remains that of restoration to Greek-Catholic ownership of the places of worship that the Romanian state confiscated on Stalin's order in 1948. I hope I can solve this matter in the course of time, set this historic problem right.

The second problem I am going to concentrate my efforts on is to build a positive image of Romania in the conscience of all Catholics with all its political and cultural implications. I will do all I can to support reunification of all Christian faiths to re-make the "seamless dress" that the Middle Ages owe their moral and cultural flourishing to.

On the first contact with Monsignor Bukovski, Apostolic Nuncio to Bucharest, Dan A. Lazarescu said: He assured me of all his support at the Holy See to help me in my mission which is far from easy. I leave temporarily my country (in February) which I did not leave in time of distress with a sense of confidence that the energies of the Romanian people will eventually bring Romanian society to the scale of European Christian values.

Preparations for Revolution Anniversary Continue

Parliament To Mark Anniversary 21 Dec

AU2012121490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1104 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/12/1990—The Senate resumed proceedings on December 20 in the presence of 101 of the 119 senators, debating the bill of the land stock, from Article 7 on. The bill has 120 articles. As mentioned by President of the Senate Alexandru Barladeanu, on December 21 the two chambers will meet in solemn session to mark one year since the victory of the Romanian revolution.

Interior Minister Appeals for 'Peace'

AU2012133690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1302 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—In a Romanian television news programme, Interior Minister Viorel Ursu called on citizens to keep quiet on these anniversary days. He also asked all the ministry personnel to "ensure calm, peace and order, now when we prepare to commemorate the Romanian revolution and celebrate Christmas". He invited the citizens to have "faith" in the Ministry of Interior as a state body and reminded that, one day before, the law on the Interior Ministry's structure and prerogatives had been adopted.

March Held in Timisoara 20 Dec

AU2012200090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1858 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—In Timisoara the events commemorating one year since the December revolution continued on Thursday. A commemoration march took place on a route covering all the hot points of the revolution. At 13 hours [1100 GMT], according to a decision of the prefecture, a two-minute's silence was observed throughout Timis County, in memory of the revolution's victims. Then there was the meeting of the Romanian Democratic Front of Timisoara, which was set up during the revolution, on December 20, 1989. Thousands of demonstrators in the Opera Square chanted slogans against the president, the government and the Parliament.

NSF Cancels 22 Dec Rally in Bucharest

AU2012224490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2138 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—To contribute to maintaining a climate of quiet and respect over the days when the December 1989 revolution is to be commemorated, the National Salvation Front announces its members and followers, as well as the Bucharest City mayorship that it renounces the rally scheduled for 22 December, reads a communique of the National Salvation Front broadcast by the Romanian Television.

The heroes of the revolution laid down their lives for the freedom and future of the entire Romanian people and no political force has the moral right to try to get advantages making use, for their own interests, of the December 1989 events.

World Federation of Hungarians Comments

AU2012124290 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 15 Dec 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The World Federation of Hungarians Issues Statement on the Anniversary of the Romanian Revolution"]

[Text] The World Federation of Hungarians issued a statement on the occasion of the anniversary of the fall of the Ceausescu-dictatorship. In the statement, the World Federation of Hungarians expressed its concern over the fact that, despite numerous positive changes, forces continue to exist and develop in Romania which reject the European democratic norms, incite against the efforts of the national minorities in general and of the Hungarian minority in particular to have equal rights, and seem to restore the social and political conditions of the Ceausescu-dictatorship. Among other things, the intolerance and open anti-Hungarian incitement that repeatedly emerge in the chauvinistic manifestations of Vatra Romaneasca and of the daily ROMANIA MARE remind us of those bygone times. This philosophy of racism and supremacy that terrorizes the non-Romanian masses in the country wanted to stop the general secretary of the Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania from delivering his speech at the mass meeting held in Gyulafehervar [Alba Iulia] on 1 December—all this accompanied by the encouraging gestures of Romania's prime minister. We also regard the press campaign directed against Laszlo Tokes and Andras Suto, as well as the criminal investigation comedy in which the head of the faction of the National Salvation Front recently compromised the Romanian Parliament, as an embodiment of the spirit of the bygone dictatorship. The World Federation of Hungarians expressed its strongest protest against such manifestations and provocations, because these are phenomena which threaten the democratic settlement of the fate of the Hungarian and other

national minorities in Romania, as well as the stabilization of Romania and, subsequently, of the entire central Eastern-European area.

FSN's Iordache Assaulted in Timisoara

AU2012201890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2035 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—Mr. Claudiu Iordache, FSN [National Salvation Front] prime vice-president, deputy for Timisoara, was invited to participate in a meeting in that town's Revolution Square, staged by the Romanian Democratic Front whose founding member he was. On his way to the meeting place an incident occurred. Mr. Claudiu Iordache was attacked and forced to take shelter in a shop whence order forces escorted him to the nearby garrison's command. Although he had been invited to attend and address that meeting, Mr. Iordache was insulted and thus prevented to speak.

Iordache Ready To Submit to 'Moral Scrutiny'

AU2012224190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2124 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—In a statement made Thursday evening to Timisoara radio station, further broadcast by Bucharest Radio station, Mr. Claudiu Iordache, FSN [National Salvation Front] first vice-president, declared he was ready to submit himself to a moral scrutiny. Mr. Claudiu Iordache said that, if those who had elected him in the country's Parliament decided to withdraw their confidence in him, he was ready to resign from his deputation.

Civic Alliance Calls For Unity, Primaries

AU2012121090 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 15 Dec 90 p 1

[Civic Alliance "Appeal"; place and date not given]

[Text] The causes of Romania's crisis today and the difficult and almost hopeless situation of our citizens cannot be blamed only on the heritage left by the Ceausescu regime and even less on the cost of the pretended transition to the market economy. Contrary to the assurances and justifications of the political power, communist structures and mechanisms in the economy and administration have been preserved as they have in the social area on the whole. The privatization process and the land reform have been obstructed. The separation of state powers is, in fact, nonexistent a year after the revolution. Human rights and democratic principles are systematically and flagrantly violated. With the consent of the Parliament, by and by the presidency and the government have assumed the prerogatives of a totalitarian regime. The Securitate has been preserved or even consolidated against the will of our citizens. Isolated both at home and abroad, those in power are not proceeding in the direction of democracy, but in the direction of a dictatorship. As was the case in the last period of the dictatorship, Romania's president also holds the position of supreme commander of the Army, thus violating the provisions of the election law. The social contract concluded through the 20 May elections has been violated. Romania is in an extremely serious situation and the danger of an uncontrollable explosion of discontent exists should the current compromised leadership refuse to cede power.

In face of the danger threatening us, the Civic Alliance calls on all citizens, trade unions, democratic organizations, and political parties to unite in order to jointly demand PRIMARIES ORGANIZED BY A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO TRUST.

Students' Convention Issue Communique on Strikes

AU2012185590 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 15 Dec 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Communique of Bucharest Students' Convention"]

[Text] For almost a year now students' organizations have been trying to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere of sincerity, trust, and understanding in our society. Our innumerable appeals met with indifference or even enmity. We have been labelled "unrepresentative," "obedient to foreigners," "fascists," "communists," "drugged," and so forth. There were attempts to push us to the periphery of society and we were constantly provided with "advice" and "recommendations." Through the efforts of some mendacious newspapers and Romanian television large people's masses were incited to hatred and violence against us.

We want to recall that the demands made by us are not of a limited student nature, but benefit the whole society. Our organizations have nothing to do with the struggle for power. Others earn high salaries at the expense of the people. All our actions—which have always been peaceful and nonviolent, without any exception—earned us: threats, insults, persecution, beatings, torture, arrests, and imprisonment. Consequently, numerous students have emigrated, preferring to live among strangers rather than being insulted in their own country and mistreated while their parents look on. We have stayed behind and will stay here although we know that new foul actions against us are being plotted.

It is to the memory of the martyrs that we have declared a general strike as the last form of protest in the hope that at least now we will be understood and trusting that the workers will realize that we are fighting—like we did in December—in the forefront for them, the many—our brothers, parents, and friends.

We note with sadness, however, that more and more persistent and accepted rumors announce violence and

that suspicion and insecurity are increasing. The following has to be made known:

—The students' strike is taking place only within the universities. Our organizations are not participating in street demonstrations.

—We are not launching appeals for strikes in enterprises. The trade unions are the only ones to launch such appeals.

Any pamphlets to the contrary, which are being spread, do not belong to us.

—The students' strike does not affect the national economy. The students will make up for the hours lost by studying hard.

—The strike is taking place in 51 universities and, apart from the tens of thousands of students, numerous university professors support—through lists of signatures—our action.

We would be happy if the workers and the other kinds of employees expressed—through their trade unions—their views on our organizations and on the students' strike, as well as on the demands and attitudes in connection with a possible attack—like that in June—against us, our organizations, and our universities.

Should we receive no answer on behalf of the workers organizations by 19 December 1990 at 1600 [1400 GMT] we will conclude that our action is not approved of by the broad categories of the people, that workers' circles are satisfied with the current sociopolitical situation, that a new scenario like that of June is perfectly possible to be staged by those who staged it at that time, and that, consequently, we are isolated within Romanian society and our voice resounds like in a desert.

In such a situation we will propose that the students organizations in our country discuss suspending the strike and renouncing any form of protest—apart from the petition and communique—beginning on 20 December 1990.

Medical Students Society
University Students League
Trade Union of Civil Engineering Students
Students League of Polytechnic Institute
Trade Union of Students of Economic Sciences
Students League of Electrical Engineering
Students Association of Architecture Institute
Students League of Theatrical Academy
Students League of Academy of Arts
Students League of Academy of Music
Students League of Agronomic Institute
Romanian Ecological Agora

TU Calls All Ships To Start 'Warning Strike'

AU2012211690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1947 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—The Executive Committee of the Navigators' Free Trade Union called upon all ships sailing under Romanian flag to start a Japanese-type warning strike Thursday, December 20, at 1 p.m. Their spokesman, Mr. Silvestru Popovici, said a strike was out of the question. A strike could be called only with the consent of the simple majority of the merchant fleet. The Executive Committee of the Navigators' Free Union intends to turn that action into a long term general strike. It seems that, given the abstention of the leader of the Constanta Harbour Trade Union Federation to sign the Navigators' Free Union's communique-appeal, the other trade union organizations of the federation are not involved in the strike.

Suceava Unions Disapprove of Destabilizing Actions

AU2012121690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1125 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/12/1990—The Free and Affiliated Unions of the Suceava industrial enterprises disapprove of the destabilizing actions promoted by some political and student groupings and express their respect for and solidarity with the country's democratic institutions.

The unions signatory to the communique include those of the machine and tool enterprise, the equipment and spare parts enterprise, the knitwear enterprise, the glassware enterprise, the wool enterprise.

Iliescu Suggests Amendments to Unemployment Bill

AU2012211990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1955 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1990—When the plenum session resumed Thursday afternoon, the Senate suspended debates on the real estate bill for a short while to discuss a letter from Romania's President, Mr. Ion Iliescu. The letter asked the senators to reconsider certain provisions of the law for social protection of the unemployed and their professional reintegration, so as to better safeguard the rights of persons temporarily jobless.

The proposals submitted to the Senate for study are the result of the agreement reached by the president and the trade unions. It is common knowledge that the abovementioned bill has not been promulgated by the president although it was passed in the two chambers of Parliament beginning December. Mention should be made that to return a bill for further examination is in accordance with article 94 of the Senate regulation. After reexamination the senators voted once more the bill as a whole including the amendments proposed.

Reaction to Shevardnadze's Resignation Reported

Loncar Views 'Dramatic Situation'

LD2012155590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1510 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The latest developments in the Soviet Union, including Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation at today's session of the Supreme Soviet, point to the dramatic situation in that country, Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar told the parliamentary foreign policy committee here on Thursday.

The fact that involved is a big country whose changes, including the perestroyka, have changed much in world relations, adds to the dramatic dimension of the situation, said Loncar.

Among the most important changes he mentioned the altered political-strategic picture of the world.

Loncar recalled that Shevardnadze was one of Gorbachev's closest aides in shaping and implementing the perestroyka.

Without entering into the motives for the resignation, Loncar noted that the situation in the Soviet Union proves that changes in the world are the greater the more dynamic the development of international relations.

Discusses Other Foreign Policy Issues

LD2012183290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1710 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia is beginning to take part in the European processes, and as a result is taking on enormous responsibilities which have been set for all the other countries as well, said Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, speaking at the session of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the SFRY Assembly's Federal Chamber.

Analyzing the CSCE session in November, as well as the session of the Council for Yugoslavia-EC Cooperation which has just ended, Loncar stressed that the clear message coming from a united Europe is that only a united Yugoslavia can take part in European integrational processes.

Speaking on the CSCE achievements with emphasis on Yugoslav achievements and responsibilities, Loncar recalled two aspects of the final document of this historic meeting. The first one was the reaffirmation of all Helsinki principles and the second the regulation of relations in each country.

The second aspect has vital consequences for all CSCE member. What was, until yesterday, the right of only a few countries, is today transferred into the collective will and responsibility of all countries, which places the question of the sovereignty of each country within the context of the protection of its security and stability, said Loncar.

Instead of a winding-up speech on the responsibilities resulting from the final document of the CSCE summit in Paris, Loncar quoted Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency: "Those who want to become independent in any other way will only isolate themselves." Dwelling on the meeting of the Council for Yugoslavia-EC Cooperation, Loncar said that this gathering, held last Tuesday in Brussels, was in a way a turning point in relations between our country and the EC. According to him, we left for Brussels knowing to the EC. In the positive ones, Loncar included multiparty elections held in all republics, the consistency of the federal government in its implementation of the economic reform, and also Yugoslavia's consistent stand on the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Regarding negative factors, Loncar said that those are: uncertainty about the resolution to the Yugoslav internal crisis, the holding of federal elections, the still unclear situation in Kosovo and Metohija, and the plebiscite in Slovenia, which "taken together show the world the fissures in our enitre system."

Loncar recalled the result of the Brussels meeting—the third financial protocol worth $1.1 billion of which $50 million consists of outright grants, and stressed that among those countries which initiated changes to their own systems by embarking upon the multiparty democracy, Yugoslavia is the most powerful partner of the European Community after the USSR.

In the course of Loncar's numerous meetings in Brussels, EC leaders again underscored that only a united Yugoslavia can be a partner to the European Community.

In conclusion the Yugoslav foreign minister presented a very interesting fact: Yugoslavia entered the category of those countries which will be recipients of EC aid. At the same time Yugoslavia has kept its Mediterranean position within Europe, which represents a particular feature which has not been afforded to any other European country.

Resignation Said Sign of Deterioration

LD2012214290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1745 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Moscow, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The resignation of Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze can be taken as a sure sign that the already serious situation in the Soviet Union is further deteriorating. In fact, it can be said that the resignation will contribute to this deterioration.

With the departure of the proud Georgian, of whom it is said that he "earned" at least a part of Gorbachev's Nobel Peace Prize, a new test of strength is beginning between the conservative, that is right wing, and the radical, the left or democratic wing in Soviet society.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which Shevardnadze has headed for four years, has for some time had poor relations with a section of the military leadership. Radical generals and colonels such as Murashov, Petrushenko, Alksnis and others have not infrequently "rattled their sabres" in the face of the diplomat in disagreement with their policies.

A section of the military leadership considers that the Soviet politicians have contributed to the resurrection of capitalism in Eastern Europe, and particularly to the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. They are less likely to note that Eastern European socialism was in essence too much of an artificial creation, so that it inevitably had to collapse the moment the masses dared defy the police regimes.

The gist of this reasoning is that the military leadership is not like-minded when it comes to the democratic processes in the Soviet Union and the perestroyka policy as a whole. This is an additional element of concern for the Soviet state leadership in these critical times, when that leadership itself has begun to crumble.

The problem is not limited to this, because the democratic social forces are beginning to lose their ground with the departure of such personalities of repute and esteem as Shevardnadze. Perhaps he can be reproached, as he was this evening by Mikhail Gorbachev, for abandoning the ship if he has himself already ascertained that it is beginning to sink, but he cannot be faulted for his unprecedented devotion to serving the Soviet Union and portraying a new impression of it in the world, thereby dramatically changing world relations for the better in recent years.

That is why today's sensational speech by the Soviet foreign minister, the serious warnings that a dictatorship is knocking at the doors of the country sounded fairly realistic. Shevardnadze was optimistic, saying that the people would later bring it down, but he foresees an inevitable offensive by the right in order to take over and establish a dictatorship. To him, as a man who, in carrying out Soviet policy over the years, has spoken with them most influential personalities in the world, it is clear what that would mean.

The world would return to the abyss of the Cold War, which has been buried thanks also to the inestimable contribution of the Soviet foreign minister. The generals on both sides of the ideological barricades would again be looking through their sights, and detente and confidence would be replaced by mutual suspicions.

Shevardnadze has obviously realized, from yesterday's speech Prime Minister Ryzhkov as well, that the Soviet domestic scene cannot support the efforts of the leadership to continue to operate effectively on the international stage. The fears of the West about what will happen tomorrow in this state have, with his resignation, gained yet another basis. Moreover, he has said that he does not wish to be a witness to the arrival of a dictatorship, because he has completely turned to the struggle for democracy and democratic relations in the world.

His words about the approach of a dictatorship were also a mild reproach to Gorbachev for not using the great powers which he possesses in acting more decisively to bridle and bring down the conservative edifice.

There are those who believe that in the new structure of government which Gorbachev is forming, Shevardnadze will be given some very high position. There are claims, official, and denials, official, that Gorbachev will not accept his resignation.

However, there remains a big question mark over what will happen. The rumors which have been heard in recent months that the possibility of a military coup cannot be ruled out sound convincing. These were rumors, but now they are warnings. Either that or a right-wing dictatorial coup—two evils between which no one here who is in agreement with the democratic processes would be able to choose.

'Cracks' in Perestroyka Said Deep

AU2012151890 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Branislav Canak commentary]

[Text] Edvard Shevardnadze's resignation is certainly the best reflection of the complexity of all Soviet circumstances and troubles. As one of the most loyal and reliable supporters of perestroyka, which he, of course, especially demonstrated through his post as foreign minister, Shevardnadze proved with his resignation that cracks within the concept of perestroyka are considerably deeper than could have been presumed.

One must also bear in mind the fact that Shevardnadze was closely attached to Mikhail Gorbachev, uncompromisingly following the course of his perestroyka. Nobody in the Soviet Union can reproach Shevardnadze's foreign policy for perestroyka's failure to result in historic relief for the Soviet Union, its allies, neighbors, friends, as well as foes everywhere in the world.

Shevardnadze's contribution to what is called the creation of new world relations is sacred. When a politician like that resigns because of what appears to be deep disagreements over the course of internal policy, then this is a sign that this policy has entered the deepest possible crisis whose denouement could be extremely dramatic. This was confirmed by Shevardnadze's brief speech in the Congress of Deputies today.

How Shevardnadze's resignation will affect the political authority of Mikhail Gorbachev and his indeed weakened camp, which is promoting original perestroyka, is difficult to judge at the moment. One thing is certain: By losing Shevardnadze, Gorbachev and perestroyka have lost one of the pillars of this policy.

Government Warns of 'Measures' Against Slovenia

LD2012140590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1106 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Justice Minister Vlado Kambovski has said that the federal government would undertake "quiet, but effective economic policy measures" against Slovenia should the republic go through with the plebiscite on independence, set for December 23.

In a statement published by the Belgrade daily BORBA today, Kambovski explained that the federal government would thus meet a demand of the Yugoslav State Presidency which on Tuesday [18 December] concluded that the plebiscite was an anti-constitutional act which meant the beginning of Slovenia's secession from Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav Government, Kambovski underscored, can act against Slovenia through credit-monetary policy measures, bank and foreign exchange investments, sanctions in the field of trade of goods and services on the market and foreign trade business deals.

Kambovski said that the federal government would act even "against the use of non-Yugoslav documents for crossing the Yugoslav borders, protected by federal institutions." Slovenia has recently announced issuing its own passports following independence.

"The federal government's concept for resolving the Yugoslav social, economic and political crisis implies a peaceful solution," Kambovski said, noting that "for this reason he did not wish to speak of the role of the Yugoslav People's Army, which is an entirely different option."

The federal government proposes that the secession of any federal unit, if it becomes an inevitability—i.e. the absolute wish of its citizens—be regulated under a new Yugoslav Constitution, Kambovski explained.

The federal chamber, one of the two chambers of the Yugoslav parliament, on Wednesday ordered the federal government to undertake available constitutional authorities to put a stop to the plebiscite in Slovenia.

Slovenia Condemns Federal Conclusions

LD2012151490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1202 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—As expected, the Slovene Assembly today extended its agenda with a discussion on the conclusions arrived at yesterday by the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly in connection with the Slovene plebiscite. Consequently the Sociopolitical Chamber [of the Slovene Assembly] adopted a proposal by Darja Lavtizar-Bebler to examine the suitability of Admiral Stane brovet, deputy federal secretary for national defense, to perform this function. Namely, she explained, Stane Brovet made two mistakes when addressing the Federal Chamber. First, he suggested that being a Slovene he had been chosen for the post in observance of republican quotas, and further on, he quoted only the federal Constitution, ignoring the Slovene Constitution, Declaration on Slovene Independence, etc.

The Chamber of Municipalities [of the Slovene Assembly], also deviating from the originally set agenda, assessed that the conclusions of the Federal Chamber represent an attack on the rule-of-law state and that all the loud advocates of the rule-of-law state failed their test yesterday.

A discussion on the conclusions of the Federal Chamber and on Admiral Brovet's speech is yet to take place.

Court Discusses Independence Ban

LD2012184990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1418 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia has this afternoon begun a discussion of yesterday's demand by the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly to ask the court to issue a temporary ban on the halt of all actions in connection with the Slovene plebiscite on independence scheduled for 23 December. The procedure in which the constitutionality of the plebiscite law will be assessed automatically started because the Federal Chamber is the so-called authorized proposer.

In his report, Judge Dr. Ivan Kristan said that in his view the constitutional basis for issuing a temporary ban does not exist. However, the discussion so far shows that there are vastly differing opinions.

Slovenes Slacken Security Around Main Facilities

AU2012161890 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 13 Dec 90 p 4

["S.S."-signed report: "Militia Is not Guarding More Important Facilities"]

[Text] Ljubljana—Following the announcement that the Yugoslav People's Army will take over recruiting matters into its own hands, the representative of the Slovene Executive Council stated that the situation has not changed since the republican Secretariat for Defense issued its last statement. According to this statement, no Slovene organ has received such a request from anybody. The government representative also said that the armed militiamen no longer guard the more important facilities.

Minister Bavcar on Slovene Security, Military

AU2112100590 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 16 Dec 90 p 7

[Interview with Slovene Internal Affairs Minister Igor Bavcar by Vojo Lukic; place and date not given: "Adventurists Are Playing With Other People's Lives"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lukic] What can you say about the reorganization of the State Security Service?

[Bavcar] The changes in this service have been the most radical ones. We are scrapping the State Security Service and establishing a security information service. It will analyze and document information which is important for the security of the country and the constitutional order. We are introducing the institution of the court ruling when it comes to violations of the most fundamental rights of people and citizens. This service will have powers which will mean that on a court decision, they can use special methods and means, for example, they can monitor telephones, letters, and other communications, they will be able to secretly follow and photograph people, and so forth. However, they will need a court ruling for this and this method will only be able to be used if the aim is justified. These institutions are well known in such services in the West.

Likewise, a great novelty is that the service will not have police powers. Its task is only to investigate activities which are suspected of undermining the constitutional order and the interests of our country and to inform the secretary of this. The further procedure is in the jurisdiction of other services or even state organs which the secretary must inform about the danger or presence of these interests. Regarding changes to the law on internal affairs, we are writing that this service will have its own files, for which it will be precisely regulated how they must be kept, for how long, and who decides when they are used. We have even gone as far as forbidding this service access to the data of other departments in the police, for example, the militia and criminal service. We have applied standards which are proposed by the council of ministers of the European Community for examples of police use of personal data. You know that nowadays there are several levels of violence and that the use of physical force is only one of the possible ways to injure a person.

The Role of Journalists

[Lukic] It is now being said and written in Slovenia that some leading Ljubljana editors were also high-ranking state security officials at the same time.

[Bavcar] I do not know such stories. Not one of the editors that I know was an employee of the State Security Service. However, on the other hand, I can say that the State Security Service had powers in the earlier system, that is to say, it did not have powers but took them in order to look over certain "contentious" magazines and reviews before they went to press. [passage omitted]

[Lukic] How do you cooperate with your colleagues in other parts of Yugoslavia?

[Bavcar] With Minister Boljkovac, very closely, but much less with the others, in fact very formally. [passage omitted]

[Lukic] What can you tell us about the case of Roman Leljak who has been vociferously accusing both you and Jansa in the Slovene press?

[Bavcar] Mr. Leljak accuses Jansa of allegedly setting up a new secret service which has, as I read somewhere, about 20,000 spies. Considering that Mr. Leljak is a former employee of the state security service, he should know that what he is saying is funny. The famous "Sector 9," which does actually exist as part of the defense ministry, was set up long before anyone imagined that Jansa would take over this ministry. Moreover, it was set up with the consent of the Yugoslav People's Army and until Jansa appeared, it was filled with active army personnel, members of the military security service. Problems arose when Jansa canceled their collaboration and they had to go back to the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] and civilians took over their positions who included a young worker from the internal affairs organ.

Mr. Leljak offered his services and experience to many people, even to me. He wanted to apply for the post of head of the Internal Affairs Department in Maribor. I did not endorse this offer. Without going into his reasons for spreading these untruths, I can say that I expressed my opinion about him about a year and a half ago and this publicly, even though it was against my will. [passage omitted]

Are Citizens Afraid?

[Lukic] Is there today in Slovenia, as some of our papers have written, a heightened fear among citizens and politicians of a possible military coup?

[Bavcar] An opinion poll taken a few days ago showed that more than 85 percent of the people are of the opinion that Slovene independence and the integrity of our republic should definitely be defended from everyone, and even those who are endeavoring to use the JNA for their own political aims. This is not a question of fear but of resoluteness. Regarding a military putsch, I think, discounting some adventurists in the JNA, such an option does not have support. On the other hand, you do know that the JNA has publicly announced that it will try to seize lists of conscripts and weapons of the Slovene Territorial Defense Force. This is of course completely against the law and we would defend both. What kind of situation everything would then get into is another question. It increasingly seems to me that some people have been working on scenarios whereby there could be uncontrolled events which could acquire a new quality. This means there are those adventurists in nice residences and coastal villas who make calculations with other people's lives. However, the Army contains young, intelligent people who are not prepared to use their own blood to settle other people's accounts. [passage omitted]

What Can Be Seen From the Air

[Lukic] The press has been saying that members of the Slovene police are watching all JNA barracks and premises in Slovenia and, supposedly, it has not been

unknown for helicopters of the Secretariat for Internal Affairs to fly over JNA military premises and conduct activities that are incompatible with their role.

[Bavcar] The main role of the helicopters of the Secretariat for Internal Affairs of Slovenia is to fly. The fact that a month ago one, I am thinking of the roads administration, flew over the barracks in Ajdovscina and the Army caused a problem about this is another matter. What, please, could our helicopter have seen from the air? [passage omitted]

This is a question of a fabricated problem and, apart from that, each of our flights needs the approval of the military flight control. Checking barracks? Officers say a lot about this, but they talk above all about things with which they do not agree or do not understand. If someone says, as did one of the generals in the Banja Luka corps, that all party leaders should be killed, this is not difficult to connect with some activities in the Army which the narrow leadership knows about but which are seen by others who warn us.

[Lukic] What is cooperation like today between the JNA and the government of Mr. Peterle in Slovenia?

[Bavcar] Well, it is not exactly satisfactory, although I think that for our part we are quite willing. You know —and we spoke about this with Jansa at a recent news conference—that some people in the JNA, above all the security service, have not reconciled themselves to the election results. They continue to act as if their assumptions from before the elections made during the "Romanija" exercises have come true. Remember, the idea that quislings have come to power in Slovenia and Croatia, and so on. Even the Federal Executive Council made a decision which speaks about the Socialist Republic of Slovenia. NARODNA ARMIJA writes about the Socialist Republic of Slovenia in its articles. Slovenia literally clothes and feeds this Army and, can you imagine, this Army wants to sell recipes to it on what system is best for Slovenia.

Kadijevic Should Have Been Replaced Already

[Lukic] Kadijevic has now relented and accepted the idea of departyfication [departizacija].

[Bavcar] What does he have to accept or not to accept. He is formally and in actuality a federal employee and it is worrying that he spoke the way he did. In any normal democratic society, he would already have been replaced. Second, he does not speak about depolitization but about departyfication, and that is not the same. It is not sufficient to ban the formation of different parties in the JNA, it is necessary to clearly delineate between the army profession and politics. The fact that there was no attempt to confiscate arms and lists of conscripts is another question and I hope the consequence of an intelligent assessment by those who have planned such a thing. [passage omitted]

[Lukic] How do you see Slovenia in the near future?

[Bavcar] The near future is not favorable to Slovenia, nor to any other Yugoslav republic. The near future is the future of crisis, unemployment, many economic difficulties, and, after the elections in Serbia this is now quite clear, of new political tensions. I think that the process of becoming independent, which has begun, offers Slovenia a greater chance, although even this chance depends above all on our ability to make use of it. Nothing will be given to us on a plate.

Plebiscite's Effect on Slovene Development Viewed

AU2012145790 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 4 Dec 90 p 4

[Veso Stojanov report: "Slovenia's Independence Means More Control Over Management and More Money for Domestic Needs"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 3 Dec—"The present Yugoslav institutional framework does not allow Slovenia to make independent decisions concerning the vital interests of the Slovene economy. This fact has particular dimensions in a state as heterogeneous in its regional economic development as Yugoslavia." This is the opening sentence of the extensive chapter on the causes and aspects of Slovenia's becoming independent of the document the Slovene Government has sent to the Republican Assembly.

According to the government, the large differences in the levels of development within Yugoslavia are in fact the main reason for the inefficient systemic changes and developmental strategy and the current economic policy which fails to satisfy the interests of a single one of the Yugoslav republics. Further evidence of this is the fact that all efforts toward stabilization made during past years have failed due to the lack of necessary consensus among the republics. Another consequence of such a position are permanent pressures for the redirection of the social product, not only from more to less developed regions, but also in a way that will benefit regions that have a greater political influence on the creation of the economic policy. However, the predominance of such administrative mechanisms means there is no hope of a neutral economic policy at the federal level. According to the Slovene Government, all this speaks in favor of the thesis that from an economic point of view, an independent Slovenia will enjoy two advantages in the long run. Macroeconomic management would be easier and more effective and more funds will be left for its own current and investment use.

The Cost of Real Socialist Politics Is No Longer Necessary

This is why the government is of the opinion that there is no reason for Slovenia to continue to pay the cost of the remaining real socialist politics in some parts of Yugoslavia, particularly Serbia, because that could only increase the danger of Slovenia's economic and social

isolation in the coming decade. Despite all efforts, Slovenia cannot prevent the destruction of the Yugoslav economy which, according to the Slovene Government, is caused by political events, unpreparedness for necessary changes in the economic system, and an unsuitable economic policy. Therefore, Slovenia considers it unacceptable that, because of these things, Yugoslavia has missed the historic opportunity to be the first among the socialist countries to be integrated into Europe.

The government says in the document that it is possible to calculate the economic cost of becoming independent. The size of the problem shows the degree to which the Slovene economy represents a part of the Yugoslav economy at present. According to the data provided by the Social Accounting Service, Slovenia has sold 32.5 percent of its complete production to other republics in the first nine months of this year. Purchases from other republics constitutes 25.9 percent of all Slovene purchases. The best ties our republic has are those with Croatia (15.9 percent of all goods sold are sold to Croatia and 13 percent of all goods bought are purchased from Croatia) and Serbia (9.4 percent of the foods sold and 7.7 percent of the goods purchased). The government assesses that if the reaction to Slovene independence turns out to be reasonable, the trade with other republics does not have to drop 100 percent, and even if that were to happen, it would mean an approximate 37-percent drop in Slovene production. With a 50-percent drop in sales, Slovene production will fall by approximately 19 percent.

The government is of the opinion that the introduction of taxes on Slovene goods by other republics, would result in a drop in sales equal to the percentage of the imposed tax. The branches most affected would be the chemical, paper, and textile industries, as well as the iron and steel industry and metal processing. A sudden interruption in the performing of foreign trade business operations for other republics may result in a fall in regular exports by at least 15 percent, which amounts to approximately $600 million and an increase in imports by about seven percent, that is, $280 million!

Slovenia accounted for 10 percent of the total Yugoslav debt last year, that is, $1.6 billion. In the government's opinion, with the foreign exchange inflow realized, Slovenia is capable of repaying its foreign obligations. During several past years, some eight to 12 percent of the foreign exchange inflow was used for servicing debts.

Universal Recognition Will Be a Long Process

In the government's opinion, the plebiscite will be one of the essential conditions for international recognition of Slovenia's independence, but that would above all depend on the degree to which the control of the Slovene territory would really be in the hands of the Slovene authorities. Although Slovenia has been given assurances by individual states that they are prepared to recognize the independent Slovene state, complete and universal recognition will be a long process and not an overnight change. The government document also says that the Slovene borders have been established by international agreements and Slovenia's independence will not affect them.

As concerns national security, the government states that the decision voted in the plebiscite would in general strengthen Slovenia's security position. After such a legitimately adopted decision, any armed intervention against Slovenia would mean an attack against a sovereign state. Certainly, after the plebiscite, Slovenia will hold negotiations on the withdrawal of the federal Army from Slovene territory and agreements about sharing joint property located on Slovene territory in the form of military equipment. The government points out that during the transitional period and at the time of the plebiscite, internal affairs organs and the territorial defense organization will be in charge of national security and would strengthen it in accordance with the amendments to the Slovene Constitution and the Constitutional Law.

The Transition Period Following the Plebiscite

The government has devoted a large part of its document to activities in the period after the plebiscite when the formation of Slovenia as an independent state will be concluded. The decision of the plebiscite does not mean the immediate suspension of relations with the others in Yugoslavia, but, if Slovene citizens vote "for" at the plebiscite, that would only mean that on the basis of that decision, a transitional period will begin and relations in Yugoslavia will be decided upon a qualitatively different kind of foundation.

Because of this, the government is of the opinion that an additional constitutional amendment should be adopted which would eliminate all the constitutional provisions that speak of Slovenia's links with the Federation. One should also adopt a constitutional law on the implementation of that amendment, immediately begin negotiations with the Yugoslav authorities and other republics on the future setup, secure a minimum functioning of the Federation during the transitional period, and, together with Croatia, prepare starting points for the possible confederal agreement.

The constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and a constitutional law for its implementation should be adopted as soon as possible. The method, order, and speed of attaining economic independence will have a great influence on the success of the process. Therefore, the government proposes a plan on attaining independence and is prepared to bear responsibility for it.

Above all, this means a gradual establishment of an own economic system, an own economic policy, and simultaneous adjustment of the economic structure. This plan will reduce the risks to a great extent and enable Slovenia to form various types of economic links with other parts of Yugoslavia. The government is of the opinion that this scenario can be carried out in six months. Apart from that, the government will also prepare the necessary laws

on the establishment of an independent taxation and payment system, the takeover of foreign trade protection and foreign exchange operations, establishment of a Slovene central bank, the assumption of control over the banking system, and intervention measures in economic and political sphere.

Division of Assets and Liabilities Inherited

In the government's opinion, when Slovenia becomes independent and Yugoslav assets and liabilities are divided, Slovenia would have to respect the following starting points in particular: Yugoslav foreign exchange reserves would have to be divided according to the share in exports to hard currency markets (Slovenia's share in them amounts to approximately 32 percent), facilities and equipment located on Slovene territory and used by federal authorities should be taken over by Slovenia, and Slovenia's share in the Soviet debts should be proportionate to its share in Yugoslav exports to clearing account markets.

After it is divided, the internal debt (dinar and foreign exchange deposits guaranteed by the federation) would have to be transferred to the Slovene banking system, but one would also have to respect the methods of dividing that part of the external federal debt where the final beneficiary is impossible to identify. If it is divided in accordance with the share of individual republics in the present joint debt, Slovene debt would increase by $400 million, and if it is divided in proportion to individual republics' share in Yugoslavia's social product (Slovenia's share being 20 percent), Slovenia's debt would increase by $800 million.

At the end of the document, the government expresses its support for the plebiscite and warns that the project must not mean prestige for any individual party, because it can only be the joint project of the citizens of Slovenia and particular responsibility must be borne by the Assembly, Presidency, and the government. The government, however, links its own responsibility to respect for all conditions contained in the document.

According to the government's calculations, the outflow of money from Slovenia to the federation this year will amount to approximately 20.7 billion dinars, that is, 11 percent of Slovenia's net social product, the inflow into Slovenia would amount to approximately 4.7 billion dinars, that is, 2.5 [percent of the] net social product. Therefore, this year's net outflow will amount to 16 billion dinars, that is, 8.5 percent of the net social product. The calculation of liabilities that are now serviced by the federation but will be taken over by Slovenia after independence, shows that 9.5 to 14.1 billion dinars will be needed for these purposes. Also added to this sum should be the "initial" costs connected with the introduction of its own money and the takeover of the guarantee of citizens' foreign exchange and dinar savings from the federation and the National Bank of Yugoslavia.

Slovene Official Wants Kucan, Milosevic Meeting

AU2012163490 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 18 Dec 90 p 1

[S. Sicarov report: "Demand for Meeting Between Kucan and Milosevic"]

[Text] Ljubljana—I will propose at a session of the Presidency that a meeting be held between Kucan and Milosevic. I believe that this could take place right after the new year. A meeting is necessary to calm down the political situation in Yugoslavia and to reduce the tense conflicts which, if they continue in this way, could only lead to a violent way of resolving them. I expect my initiative to be accepted and if there is no willingness in the government for talks with the authorities in Serbia, I think that everyone must bear their share of responsibility for the fact that the talks did not happen.

This was said at yesterday's news conference in the Presidency of Slovenia by Dr. Dusan Plut, member of the Presidency and vice president of the Green Party, who briefed journalists on the results of his participation in the "Congress on Europe Without Armies," which was held in Cologne between 14 and 16 December. The congress was attended by about one hundred activists of peace movements from seven European states, and Dr. Plut and Marko Hren, leader of the peace movement in Slovenia, presented the participants with a plan to demilitarize Slovenia.

Demilitarization also includes the nonviolent resolution of disputes in Yugoslavia, Dr. Plut thought, and sees his proposal in the context of activities advocating this option. He added that activities will be stepped up following the plebiscite. Demilitarization is already late, Dr. Plut and Hren stressed, but the situation cannot be calmed down by some additional measures which were recently taken, like the use of the reserve section of the militia and the distribution of arms to reservists. On the contrary, Hren said, an impression of emergency measures and the feeling of imperilment is being unnecessarily created. Regarding the statement by Dr. Dimitrij Rupel that "he does not have anything against Slovenia reaching agreement with NATO," Hren said that the plebiscite does not give anyone a mandate to join Slovenia to any military pact.

According to Dr. Plut, the European "alternatives" were surprised that such a plan was supported by a member of the republican Presidency, but the surprise was even greater when they discovered that such an idea is also advocated by Dr. Janez Drnovsek, member of the federal Presidency, Dr. Tmaz Kosir, president of the economic chamber, and even the president of the republic himself.

The European peace supporters expressed a fear of nationalism and advocated that ethnic conflicts be resolved. They were particularly worried about the resolution of the Kosovo question, since they expect that relations with Serbia will become strained with the opening of Albania.

Presidency Denies Army Threat Against Croatia

LD2012121690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0928 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—In the course of his talks on 16 December with representatives of seven opposition parties in Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, spoke, in the framework of a report on the current political situation in the country, about an alleged threat to the Republic of Croatia from military intervention by the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA]. In the same context, he also said that the threat of a military coup, which has allegedly been looming over Croatia ever since the new authorities came into power, culminating recently when the Federal Secretariat for National Defense allegedly sent a request to the SFRY Presidency to allow the JNA to intervene in Yugoslavia and, primarily, in Croatia. According to Tudjman, the request was not heeded thanks to the efforts of the Croat leadership and his personal talks with representatives of other republics.

In response to the above claims made by the president of the Republic of Croatia, the SFRY Presidency' press bureau has been empowered to issue the following statement:

"The claims that, ever since the new authorities took over in the Republic of Croatia, the JNA has been threatening a military coup are completely inaccurate and arbitrary and have served to cause anxiety among the population.

It is also inaccurate that the Federal Secretariat for National Defense has asked the SFRY Presidency to allow the JNA to intervene in either the country as a whole or in the Republic of Croatia. In other words, it is not true either that the SFRY Presidency considered and subsequently rejected such a request and that such a request was not endorsed as a result of efforts by the leadership of Croatia and by Dr. Tudjman personally.

At one of its recent sessions, the SFRY Presidency did consider the possible date for discussing a report by the Federal Secretariat for National Defense on instances of the anticonstitutional and irregular formation and arming of illegal paramilitary units in some parts of the country. It was agreed that the report and possible measures should be considered at one of the SFRY Presidency's coming sessions.

We take this opportunity to note once again that in the light of the increasing practice to question the role and the character of the JNA and in its effort to preserve the Army's unity and steadfastness, its all-Yugoslav and popular character, and its constitutionally outlined role, the SFRY Presidency has on several occasions condemned such unfounded statements regardless of where they came from."

Croat Ministry Temporarily Bans Public Gatherings

LD2112140390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1310 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Zagreb, 21 Dec (TANJUG)—The Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] banned all public meetings and demonstrations on the territory of the Socialist Republic of Croatia today and tomorrow for the duration of the Croatian Assembly's session. The MUP and the city of Zagreb police administration explained the decision by stating that the formal adoption of the constitution should take place in a peaceful and dignified atmosphere.

The ban also refers to protest demonstrations in Zagreb, scheduled to take place on Ban Jelacic Square today which were organized by the Croatian Party of Justice [Hrvatska Stranka Prava] and the Croatian Nation-Building Movement [Hrvatski Drzavotvorni Pokret] dissatisfied with the proposed text of a new Croatian constitution. Due to the general political situation in the country—the adoption of a new Croatian constitution, a plebiscite in Slovenia, and the second round of voting in Serbia—the MUP considers that a violation of peace and order and possible provocations could threaten an atmosphere of democracy and could be used as an excuse by all the opponents of a sovereign Croatian state for violence and the use of unconstitutional and illegal means, we read in the MUP statement.

Croatia Counters Serb Actions With Special Taxes

LD2012211690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1949 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The Government of Yugoslavia's Republic of Croatia today decided to impose special taxes on Serbian firms and citizens in Croatia, explaining them as counter measures for those imposed by Serbia.

The decision levies special taxes on all Serbian firms and citizens who have business in Croatia, or rent business space or development land in Croatian territory.

A month and a half ago, the Serbian Government introduced a similar measure which applies to firms and citizens from Slovenia and Croatia, with the explanation that this is aimed at protecting the republican economy from the wrong moves made by the Federal Government and righting the wrong wrought against it by the two northwestern republics.

The Croatian counter measures also include taxes on workers' hostels and holiday homes. Whereas Serbia is landlocked, Croatia has access to the Adriatic Sea, where many citizens from all over Yugoslavia have bungalows and most Yugoslav firms have built workers' hostels.

The Croatian Government specified that Serbs residing in Croatia would pay the tax, while Croatians residing in Serbia would be exempt.

The Government also said that funds thus raised would be used to cover the losses sustained by the Croatian economy through Serbia's measures.

Preelection Silence Period Begins in Serbia

LD2112053590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0139 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Dec (TANJUG)—The period of silence prior to the second round of the elections for republican parliament deputies in Serbia, which will be held on December 23, began at midnight tonight.

The ban on public campaigning and other promotional activities by party candidates will be in effect until the closing of the polls at 7:00 p.m. local time on Sunday [23 December].

Ninety-six parliament deputies were elected in the first round of the voting on December 9.

The remaining 154 deputies in the 250-seat Serbian Assembly will be elected in the second round from among 303 candidates, most of whom are representatives of the Socialist Party of Serbia and the united opposition.

No Plans for Macedonian Army Formation Claimed

LD2012171290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1058 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Skopje, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—We see Macedonian defense as part of Yugoslavia's defense system and, in view of this, have no plans to set up a Macedonian Army. This republic has no problem as far as the SFRY defense concept is concerned.

This was said by Colonel Risto Damjanovski, Macedonia's national defense secretary, during a traditional press conference in Skopje today to mark 22 December, Army Day.

Although we are living in a period of rapid changes, the National Defense Secretariat will direct its efforts toward the search for a defense model best suited to Macedonia and its people who see the Army as a unique force capable of safeguarding their integrity and territorial wholeness.

The outcome of recent elections in Macedonia will not change the National Defense Secretariat's attitude to society. We shall continue to defend all constitutional and legal principles regardless of which party is in power. We shall continue to respect the legacies of the national liberation war and revolution. This secretariat, Colonel Risto Damjanovski stated, supports General Veljko Kadijevic and his stand.

Progress in Privatization Programs Reported

LD2012181190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1259 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The transformation of around 600 socially-owned enterprises into mixed enterprises, with employees becoming shareholders, began in Yugoslavia this year.

The privatization was made possible by the reform laws of Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic, under which the socially-owned property is gradually to be abolished.

The federal government expects that the turning of employees into shareholders will stimulate entrepreneurship and business effectiveness in the Yugoslav economy. Around 50,000 or so private enterprises have been founded in Yugoslavia this year.

The federal government concept of selling socially-owned property to employees is mostly severely criticised in Serbia, whose authorities insist that the issue cannot be legally regulated against the will of those who are involved.

Nevertheless, Serbia at the moment has the greatest number of socially-owned enterprises which are undergoing privatization. The phenomenon, as analysts set out, is dictated by the state of the economy.

Managements issue shares within the enterprises because all funds have been emptied, while banks, which face the danger of their own insolvency, refuse to approve credits for salaries.

In profitable socially-owned enterprises, where workers have an interest in becoming co-owners of capital, a part of the profit is paid to the employees in securities (internal shares and bonds).

In the Republic of Croatia, resistance to the federal law on privatization has not been very vocal, but the implementation of the law has practically been halted. The privatization is being carried out through a state agency for ownership restructuring, which, according to critics of the new Croatian government, means that the republic has begun to nationalize socially-owned property instead of privatizing it.

Compared with the former countries of "real socialism," where state ownership predominated, Yugoslavia introduced social ownership in the self-management period.

Around 90 percent of the Yugoslav economy is socially owned, which further hinders the process of privatization, since it is legally difficult to determine the actual titleholders.

Although Prime Minister Markovic's associates assess that privatization is not making a fast enough progress, foreign economists say that Yugoslavia is far ahead of the other socialist countries.

Mikrovic: Government Will Correct Economic Plan

LD2012212790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1955 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The Federal Chamber of Economy today proposed all-Yugoslav consensus on limiting public and personal expenditure, correcting the tied exchange rate of the national currency, and urgently adapting measures to protect the domestic economy.

In his programme carried by the chamber's annual assembly, newly-elected president of the organization Dagmar Suster urged the Federal Government to pursue distinctly anti-inflationary and stabilizing policies and to make corrections in its economic model.

Responding, Federal Vice-Premier Aleksandar Mitrovic said that, governed by the real economic trends this year, the government would correct its programme, but would not give up its radical economic reforms aimed at a market economy.

Already these days some input parameters of the economic policy will be changed, said Vice-Premier Mitrovic. He did not elaborate.

The economic programme of Prime Minister Ante Markovic's government is based on liberalization of prices, imports and foreign exchange market, and convertibility of the dinar (fixed to the German currency at a rate of 7 dinars for 1 DM). Earlier this year the government succeeded in curbing the enormous year-to-year inflation of about 1250 per cent, at the cost of a drop in industrial production, social product and standard of living.

Next year the government will make efforts to step up the country's development, said Mitrovic. The number of private firms is to reach 150,000 and that of mixed firms with foreign capital about five thousand.

In this context, he said, the government counts on another 2.5 billion dollars in foreign aid.